





THE
HISTORY
OF THE
BOSTON ATHENÆUM,
WITH
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES
OF ITS
DECEASED FOUNDERS.

BY JOSIAH QUINCY.

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PREFACE.

THE occasion and motives for preparing this History and the subjoined Biographical Notices will appear from the following statements.

The corner stone of the new edifice for the Boston Athenæum, in Beacon Street, was laid on the 27th day of April, 1847, with the customary formalities. At the request of Thomas G. Cary and John A. Lowell, the President and Vice-President of the institution, the Address inserted in this History was delivered. Subsequently a wish was expressed by those gentlemen, that the outline then sketched should be filled up. Although aware that the materials for the task were, some of them, difficult to be obtained, my relation to the founders of the Athenæum, and to the institution itself, induced me to comply with their request.

The early members of the Anthology Club were the first and efficient founders of the Boston Athenæum. All of them were my contemporaries, and, with the exception of Gardiner, Emerson, and Kirk-

land, my juniors. With most of them my intercourse had been intimate; and I could not but regret that so little is known of them by a generation now enjoying the benefits of an institution which had its origin in their love of letters and their patriotic spirit.

With William Smith Shaw, who is better entitled than any other individual to the name of Founder of the Athenæum, my intimacy, through his whole life, was strict and confidential. I was a constant witness of the energy, zeal, and devotedness with which he watched over it in its embryo state, and knew his fond anticipations concerning its future greatness and usefulness. My own early interest in the design, which thus occupied Mr. Shaw's thoughts and affections, is indicated by the records of the institution, which show, that my name was the fourth on the list of the first subscribers, and that my subscription was the largest that the terms of the first subscription allowed. My duties at that period, as a member of the Congress of the United States from Boston, prevented my being a member of the Anthology Club, or holding any official connection with the Athenæum until my resignation of my station at Washington in 1813. During the fifteen succeeding years, I was elected without intermission into the board of Trustees; and during the last nine of those years, and until my removal to Harvard University, in 1829, I was President of the Athenæum.

These circumstances induced me to comply with

the request of the officers of the Athenæum, as there seemed to be no other individual who united the kind of qualifications they conferred with leisure to make the researches, and apply the labor, required. Accordingly I commenced this History in the autumn of 1847, and, by means of the records of the institution, traced its progress to that stage of prosperity which in the course of years it has attained. In this part of the work, my chief object has been, by abstracting and condensing, to enable the Athenæum to narrate its own history; which would thus be unexceptionable in form, and more satisfactory in effect. Its founders and patrons will thus appear in their true and relative proportions. The difficulties, with which from time to time it has been compelled to struggle, will in this way best be made apparent; and the friends, who in such emergencies have come to its aid, will be seen in connection with the circumstances which excited into action their liberal spirit.

The strong hold which an institution of this character takes upon the affections of the intelligent and prosperous, in such a community as exists in this city and its vicinity, is an unfailing assurance, that, in whatever difficulties, incident to an institution so extensive and so constantly expanding, it may be temporarily involved, it will at all times be nobly upheld, and gradually and triumphantly raised to that height of greatness and usefulness, which was the object of the fond hopes and aspirations of its earliest founders and benefactors.

To the History of the Athenæum, prepared with these views, are subjoined Memoirs of those of its first founders, who, from their early death or the circumstances of their lives, have not yet received that public tribute, which, from their agency in laying the foundation of this institution, and their virtues and attainments, is due to their memories. Through the lapse of time, the materials for doing justice to their merits and services are unattainable or few. Enough, however, it is hoped, will be collected and preserved, to give a permanent public interest to their characters. Some of these founders, by the eminence they afterwards attained in public or professional life, have already secured for themselves enviable memorials, which render any other tribute to them, except such as is exclusively due for their services to the Athenæum, unnecessary here, perhaps undesirable.

In relation to this part of my work, it is my duty to acknowledge the aid I have received, in the notice of the Rev. Dr. Gardiner, from his son, William H. Gardiner, and his relative, Robert Hallowell Gardiner; and in that of Arthur Maynard Walter, from his niece, Mrs. Cornelia Walter Richards, who kindly favored me with a sketch she had prepared of his life, from which I derived great assistance. In my notice of William Tudor, also, I am under obligations to his brother, Frederic Tudor, and his brother-in-law, Robert Hallowell Gardiner; and, in that of William Smith Shaw, to his brother-in-law, the Rev. Joseph B. Felt.

As, from the nature of this History, and the manner in which it has been prepared, its usefulness must chiefly depend upon its fulness and exactness, I have the satisfaction to state, that I have been aided by Charles Folsom, the Librarian of the Athenæum, who has, at my request, faithfully compared my manuscript with the records of the Proprietors and Trustees; and, by testing, correcting, and sometimes enlarging my selections, has given the best assurance, that the case admits, of the completeness and accuracy of the work.

JOSIAH QUINCY.

Boston, December 31, 1850.

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HISTORY.

CHAPTER I.

THE ANTHOLOGY SOCIETY — ITS ORIGIN — ITS MEMBERS — OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION — ESTABLISHES A LIBRARY — ISSUES A PROSPECTUS FOR A READING-ROOM — ITS SUCCESS AND THE RESULTING FUNDS — ITS TRANSFER OF THEM ALL TO TRUSTEES — PRINCIPLES AND OBJECTS OF THE TRANSFER — THE TRUSTEES ANNOUNCE THEIR INTENTION TO ESTABLISH AN ATHENÆUM — THEY PETITION FOR AN ACT OF INCORPORATION, AND OBTAIN IT FROM THE LEGISLATURE.

IN the year 1804 an association of literary men was formed in Boston, under the name of "The Anthology Society," which was afterwards generally known by that of the Anthology Club.

The following circumstances led to this association. In the year 1803 Phineas Adams,* a graduate of Harvard

* Mr. Adams, the son of a farmer in Lexington, Massachusetts, manifested in early boyhood a passion for elegant learning, which the scanty means of his father forbade him to indulge. He was placed with a paper-maker to learn a trade, where his fondness for letters attracted the notice of the late Mrs. Foster of Brighton, a lady of literary celebrity at that time; and, under her kind patronage, he was enabled to leave his uncongenial employment and prepare himself for College, which he entered at the age of twenty. He adopted literature as a profession; but, after the failure of his attempt, as editor of the Anthology, he taught a school in different places, till, in 1814, he entered the Navy as chaplain and teacher of Mathematics. Here he applied himself to severer studies, and became distinguished for mathematical science in its rela-

College, of the class of 1801, commenced in Boston, under the name of *Sylvanus Per-se*, a periodical work, entitled "The Monthly Anthology, or Magazine of Polite Literature." He conducted it for six months; but, not finding its proceeds sufficient for his support, he abandoned the undertaking, and soon afterwards left New England. Messrs. Munroe and Francis, at that time young and enterprising printers in Boston, being desirous that the work should be continued, applied to the Rev. William Emerson, a clergyman of the place, distinguished for energy and literary taste; and by his exertions several gentlemen of Boston and its vicinity, conspicuous for talent and zealous for literature, were induced to engage in conducting the work, and for this purpose they formed themselves into a Society. The circumstances which led to this undertaking and the cause of their assuming the responsibility of the work, they stated to the public afterwards in the Preface to the first volume, in which the title was changed to "The Monthly Anthology and Boston Review."

The associates seem to have coöperated without a regular organization for more than a year. No record of their

tion to nautical affairs, at a period when scientific attainments were not common in the Navy. On the breaking out of the war with Great Britain, in 1812, he accompanied Commodore Porter, on board the frigate *Essex*, in his eventful cruise in the Pacific, of which the published "Journal" bears honorable testimony to Mr. Adams's "zeal for promoting geographical and mathematical knowledge." His love of intellectual pursuits accompanied him in every clime, and by his example he maintained their dignity and interest under all the unfavorable circumstances of a naval life. He never again resided in New England. Rejoining his old commander in the expedition for the suppression of piracy in the West Indies, he died on that station in the year 1823, much respected in the service. Invincible diffidence and an excitable temperament were the occasion of great eccentricity of manners; but a warm heart, sound sense, high purposes, and a strong will did credit to his New England origin, and made him a remarkable person with those among whom his lot was cast. Out of regard to Commodore David Porter, he prefixed *David* to his own name, and thus it now stands in the College Catalogue.

meetings during that period is preserved; but in the course of it they appointed Arthur Maynard Walter, William Smith Shaw, and Joseph Stevens Buckminster a committee to prepare a draft of a Constitution for their Society. Their report was received, discussed, and adopted, and the Constitution was signed, on the 3d of October, 1805. This instrument contains only a series of articles providing for the usual officers deemed requisite in such societies, and prescribing the time and mode of their election, rules for the admission of members, and particularly the mode in which the editorial chair should be filled, and the papers presented for publication should be read and disposed of.

At this meeting, which they regarded as the date of the formal beginning of their Society, John Sylvester John Gardiner was elected President; William Emerson, Vice-President; Arthur Maynard Walter, Secretary; William Smith Shaw, Treasurer; and Samuel Cooper Thacher, Editor.

The Society, thus formed, maintained its existence with reputation for about six years, and issued ten octavo volumes from the press, constituting one of the most lasting and honorable monuments of the taste and literature of the period. Its labors may be considered as a true revival of polite learning in this country, after that decay and neglect, which resulted from the distractions of the Revolutionary War, and as forming an epoch in the intellectual history of the United States. Its records yet remain, an evidence that it was a pleasant, active, high-principled association of literary men, laboring harmoniously to elevate the literary standard of the time, and with a success which may well be regarded as remarkable, considering the little sympathy they received from the community, and the many difficulties with which they had to struggle.

The original members of the Society were fourteen, viz.

JOHN SYLVESTER JOHN GARDINER,
WILLIAM EMERSON,
ARTHUR MAYNARD WALTER,
WILLIAM SMITH SHAW,
SAMUEL COOPER THACHER,
JOSEPH STEVENS BUCKMINSTER,
JOSEPH TUCKERMAN,
WILLIAM TUDOR, Jr.,
PETER [OXENBRIDGE] THACHER,*
THOMAS GRAY,
WILLIAM WELLS,
EDMUND TROWBRIDGE DANA,
JOHN COLLINS WARREN,
JAMES JACKSON.

The Society had existed not more than twenty days, before a vote was passed for the formation of a Library. This vote was the first and feeble germ, which, in its development, has expanded into the large collection of books, works of art, and other property devoted to their preservation and increase, which are now comprehended within the Boston Athenæum. As such, it deserves to be perpetuated in the same simple and unpretending form, in which it appears in the Society's records :

“ At a meeting of the Anthology Society, at Mr. Gardiner's, in Franklin Place, on Wednesday, the 23d of October, 1805, after some desultory remarks from various members on the subject of a Library, it was voted, on motion of Mr. Emerson, seconded by Mr. Shaw, that a LIBRARY of periodical publications be instituted for the use of the Society.

* The name of Oxenbridge was added, by authority of the Legislature of Massachusetts, in 1811.

“Mr. Gardiner then offered to present a large number of the volumes of the ‘Gentleman’s Magazine.’ This offer was accepted, and the thanks of the Society were, on motion, presented to him therefor.

“Mr. Emerson made an offer of twenty volumes of the ‘Monthly Magazine,’ ‘European Magazine,’ ‘Analytical’ and ‘Critical’ Reviews, and various volumes of newspapers. The thanks of the Society were presented to him for these gifts.

“Mr. Tudor offered to present several numbers of the ‘Mercure de France,’ and ‘La Décade’; this offer was accepted.

“Mr. Shaw presents various numbers of the ‘Anti-Jacobin,’ and he received the thanks of the Society.

“Mr. Buckminster presents several loose numbers of the ‘Monthly Review,’ and received the thanks of the Society.

“Voted, that the Standing Committee draw up regulations for the Library, and make all necessary arrangements relative thereto.

“Voted, that the several donors of books this evening, send their gifts to the Librarian’s office.”

In December, 1805, the original associates elected BENJAMIN WELLES and ROBERT HALLOWELL GARDINER members of the Society. In the course of the four months ensuing, their library had so far increased as to encourage them to give to it a greater publicity, and to attempt a farther enlargement of it. The next step taken on the subject is thus stated in the records:

“Friday, May 2d, 1806, at a meeting of the Anthology Society, the only business transacted was relative to a Reading-room, to be established in this town. Some conversation had formerly taken place on this subject, in which Mr. Shaw was principally active; he now brought

it forward for more general discussion. The object met with great approbation from the Society; and, after much desultory remark, on the motion of Mr. Shaw, a committee of five was appointed to consider the whole affair, and to report to the Society. The committee consisted of the President, the Vice-President, Mr. Shaw, Mr. Buckminster, and the Secretary."

The next meeting of the Society was on Monday, May 5th, 1806, and the proceedings of this day are thus stated in the records:

"The committee, appointed at the last meeting, met at the Rev. Mr. Gardiner's. Mr. Shaw read and proposed a Prospectus; this underwent a number of alterations. The name of the establishment was agreed to be 'The Anthology Reading-room.'

"Mr. Shaw's amended Prospectus was at length accepted by general consent, and it was determined that the same should be printed. Much conversation was had on the details of the Plan. After dinner the Society agreed to the Plan and Prospectus; and the whole system, as far as settled, was approved of by other gentlemen, whom the President had invited to dinner."

The Prospectus of the Reading-room was then published, and assiduously circulated, in the following terms:

"Proposal for the Establishing of a Reading-room in Boston, to be called The Anthology Reading-room.

"The Editors of the Anthology, in presenting the following proposal for the establishment of a *Public Reading-room* in this town, by subscription, to be called THE ANTHOLOGY READING-ROOM, flatter themselves, that a project which may be made so auxiliary to literature, and so useful to the public, will receive ample patronage from the liberal gentlemen of

Boston. The projected Plan will not only afford the subscribers an agreeable place of resort, but opportunities of literary intercourse, and the pleasure of perusing the principal European and American periodical publications, at an expense not exceeding that of a single *daily* paper.

“PLAN. — The gentlemen engage to provide a commodious room, easy of access, in a central part of the town. It shall be open from nine o’clock in the morning till nine in the evening.

“The Reading-room shall be furnished with seats, tables, paper, pens, and ink ; with the Boston papers, and all the celebrated gazettes published in any part of the United States ; with the most interesting literary and political pamphlets in Europe and America ; with magazines, reviews, and scientific journals ; London and Paris newspapers ; Steel’s Army and Navy Lists ; Naval Chronicle ; London and Paris booksellers’ Catalogues ; Parliamentary Debates ; bibliographical works, &c. &c. The gazettes, magazines, &c. shall be bound in semi-annual volumes, and preserved for the use of the establishment.

“Should this attempt be encouraged, it is contemplated to furnish the Reading-room with maps, charts, and to collect such rare, standard, and costly works, of useful reference, &c. &c. as may enhance the value and reputation of the institution.

“The annual subscription is Ten Dollars ; the money to be paid on subscribing.”

The result was a subscription of upwards of sixteen hundred dollars by more than one hundred subscribers.

In June, 1806, ROBERT FIELD ; in July, JAMES SAVAGE ; and in October, JOHN THORNTON KIRKLAND, were elected members of the Society.

The above-named nineteen individuals composed the Anthology Club, when on the 30th of October, 1806, a plan for transferring the Library of the Society, and placing the public Reading-room, which they had established in the May preceding, under the control of a body politic to be

chartered by the legislature, was matured, and incipient steps were taken to carry it into effect. For this purpose, five trustees, William Emerson, John Thornton Kirkland, Peter Oxenbridge Thacher, William Smith Shaw, and Arthur Maynard Walter, were elected by ballot, to whom, by a formal legal instrument, all the associated members "granted, bargained, and sold all the books, papers, and other property" belonging to the institution. The indenture contained many provisions, having for their object to insure the application of the transferred property to the original purpose of the Anthology Society. The substantial authority conveyed was, however, contained in the following clause: "And, should it ever hereafter be for the benefit of the institution to convert the same into a body politic, under a charter from the government of this Commonwealth, the said trustees severally engage to resign their trust, and to make such transfer to such body politic, by whatever name the same shall be called, as shall vest the property in the same as fully as it is now vested in the said trustees."

The trustees also engaged "to preserve the property; to enlarge the Library from time to time; to render it more valuable by sale, exchange, purchase, and otherwise; and to use their best endeavours to obtain subscriptions, donations, and deposits."

To the increase of the institution, the Society also devoted the profits which should accrue from the "Monthly Anthology"; in which they afterwards repeatedly urged this fact, by way of inducement to the public to become subscribers to the Anthology, and thus benefactors to the Athenæum.

In the "Editors' Address," prefixed to their volume for 1807, they say:

"We must confess, however, that we have a motive somewhat interested for wishing, that the pecuniary receipts of our

publication may rise as high as possible above its demands, which is, that all the surplus funds are applied to the support and increase of a *Public Library*; one of those institutions, of which every scholar in most parts of our country feels the want,—which our government, from its nature, does not comprise within its cares,—and which nothing but the industry and munificence of individuals will establish and supply. The respectable patronage now given to the *Anthology* is sufficient to encourage our perseverance. But we wish its more extensive circulation; and hope its friends will speak in its favor. We wish this increase of patronage, not merely because this work is the object of our affection, and partly the fruit of our industry and genius, such as they are; nor merely from an opinion that it may contribute to make its readers more wise, good, and happy,—but also, because its avails go to a general object of real importance.”*

Again, in November of the same year, after an announcement of various donations to the Athenæum, and a splendid encomium on “the mass of human knowledge,” as “recorded in volumes,” they speak of “the dignity, importance, and pleasures” belonging to “large repositories of books,” and then add:

“It is a subject of high congratulation to record the establishment of an institution in the metropolis of New England, which will be useful to various classes of our citizens; which will assist and facilitate the researches of the learned, attract and gratify the ingenuous curiosity of strangers. Let men of leisure and opulence patronize the arts and sciences among us; let us all love them, as intellectual men; let us encourage them, as good citizens. In proportion as we increase in wealth, our obligations increase to guard against the pernicious effects of luxury, by stimulating to a taste for intellectual enjoyment; the more we ought to perceive and urge the importance of maintaining the laws by manners, manners by opin-

* *Monthly Anthology*, Vol. iv. pp. 3, 4.

ion, and opinion by works in which genius and taste unite to embellish the truth." *

At the same time they publish a letter from one of their number (Mr. Buckminster), written from Liverpool, in which he expresses himself as follows :

" The first reading-room, in my opinion, is the Athenæum. I send you herewith the regulations and list of the library. The collection of books is, I think, the most select I have ever known. O when will the day come, when the library of our dearly-cherished Athenæum shall boast of including the labors of Muratori, the Thesauri of Grævius and Gronovius, the Scriptores Byzantini, the Memoirs of the Academy of Inscriptions, the *editiones optimæ* of every author of Greece and Rome, the French and English literary journals *ab initio*,—and not only possess these books, but have them always accessible to every man of letters, who wishes to consult them !" †

Also, in March of the next year, in a direct " Address to the Public," their generous and enlightened zeal utters itself in these prophetic terms :

" Our patronage, if not extensive enough to flatter our vanity, has been of a kind to content our ambition ; and personal remuneration we never required, or would accept. The ground on which we feel justified in making our request, is, that we do not beg for ourselves, but for the Athenæum, to which, after the necessary expenses are deducted, all the profits of the work are faithfully devoted. This is a plea, which excuses our request, and would, we think, authorize the importunity of the most sturdy mendicancy. He who gives his subscription, is secure of not throwing away his money ; for, however worthless he may find the Anthology, he is certain that he will contribute to the prosperity of an institution, which, we venture to foretell, will become the honor and pride of our city." ‡

* Monthly Anthology, Vol. iv. p. 601.

† Ibid. p. 593.

‡ Vol. v. p. 121.

The fourteen original associates and founders of the Anthology Society, together with the five subsequently elected members above-named, being the grantors of the books and papers transferred to the trustees in the manner before mentioned, are, of consequence, unquestionably entitled to the name of original FOUNDERS OF THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM.

Of these only seven now survive. The memories of those deceased are indissolubly connected with the history of this institution; and the closing pages of this work will be devoted to a series of Memoirs, collected from what yet remains, recorded or remembered, of their lives and virtues.*

Subsequently to this transfer of the property of the institution to trustees, the following gentlemen were, at different periods, elected members of the Anthology Society, viz. John Gorham, Joseph McKean, Andrew Ritchie, Alexander Hill Everett, George Ticknor, Sidney Willard, Winthrop Sargent, John Stickney, Andrews Norton, Jacob Bigelow, and Joseph Head; all of them patrons, and one (George Ticknor) for a long period a zealous and most efficient officer, of the Boston Athenæum.

The trustees thus appointed, having associated with themselves Theophilus Parsons, Chief Justice of the Commonwealth, and John Davis, District Judge of Massachusetts, John Lowell, Robert Hallowell Gardiner, Joseph Stevens Buckminster, and Obadiah Rich, issued a document on the 1st day of January, 1807, in which they first divulged their intention of founding in Boston an institution similar to the Athenæum, then recently established in Liverpool.

As this publication expresses the general objects proposed by the trustees, and is an evidence of their wise and comprehensive views in relation to the institution, and also represents the state of the Library at that time, and the

* See Appendix.

measures adopted for its enlargement, it is deemed proper to republish it here at length, as showing, better than any abstract or general statement, the spirit and foresight by which they were actuated.

“ ANTHOLOGY READING-ROOM AND LIBRARY.

“ THE Subscribers to the Anthology Reading-room and Library are hereby informed that their rooms are opened. More than one hundred and sixty subscribers at ten dollars a year have been obtained. Rooms have been taken for temporary accommodation in Joy’s Buildings, in Congress Street, in the flattering expectation, that, when the institution shall have gone into operation, such patronage will be given by a liberal public as will authorize the trustees to procure more commodious apartments. A library consisting of more than a thousand volumes of valuable works has already been collected and deposited in the institution, most of which have been donations. All the property, books, and papers belonging to the aforesaid library and reading-room are vested in the trustees hereafter named, who have full powers to fill up any vacancy which may be occasioned by death or resignation from among their number, and to dispose and manage the same with a view to the objects of the institution, which is intended as a foundation in this metropolis of an establishment similar to that of the Athenæum and Lyceum of Liverpool in Great Britain ; combining the advantages of a public library, containing the great works of learning and science in all languages, particularly such rare and expensive publications as are not generally to be obtained in this country ; with a reading or news room, furnished with all the celebrated political, literary, and commercial journals of the day, foreign and domestic. And no book, pamphlet, or newspaper is ever to be permitted to be taken from the rooms by subscribers ; so that the patrons of the institution may be certain at all times of finding any publications, which they may have occasion to read or refer to.

“The following gentlemen have been appointed trustees for the purposes aforesaid.

HON. THEOPHILUS PARSONS, LL.D.

HON. JOHN DAVIS.

JOHN LOWELL, ESQ.

REV. WILLIAM EMERSON.

REV. J. T. KIRKLAND, D.D.

PETER THACHER, ESQ.

ARTHUR M. WALTER, ESQ.

WILLIAM S. SHAW, ESQ.

R. HALLOWELL GARDINER.

REV. J. S. BUCKMINSTER.

OBADIAH RICH.

Who hereby publish the following rules and regulations as declaratory of their intentions in the establishment, and for the government, of the institution.

“Per order of the trustees,

“THEO. PARSONS, President.

“W. S. SHAW, Secretary.

“1. Annual subscribers will be admitted to all the privileges of the library and news-room, on paying ten dollars, the money to be advanced on subscribing.

“2. The income arising from the annual subscriptions shall be appropriated as follows: After the necessary expenses of the institution are paid, the first object of the trustees will be to furnish the room with all the celebrated gazettes, published in any part of the United States, with the most interesting literary and political pamphlets in Europe and America; with magazines, reviews, and scientific journals, in the English and French languages; London and Paris newspapers; Steel's Army and Navy Lists; Naval Chronicle; London and Paris booksellers' Catalogues; Parliamentary Debates; bibliographical works; Journals of the Congress of the United States; laws of Congress, and of the State legislatures; American state-papers, maps and charts, voyages and travels, and the

interesting publications of the day, as they appear. The gazettes, magazines, pamphlets, journals, and state-papers shall be bound in volumes and carefully preserved for the use of the establishment. From the then remainder of the income from annual subscribers, it shall be the duty of the trustees to supply the library with the most valuable Encyclopædias of the arts and sciences, in the French and English languages ; with standard dictionaries of the learned and principal modern languages ; also dictionaries critical, biographical, &c., and books of general reference, useful to the merchant and scholar. Having complied with these engagements, the trustees will apply whatever balance may remain from the annual subscriptions to the purchase of such valuable publications, as shall be thought useful to promote the objects of the institution.

“3. The library and reading-room shall be open every day, Sundays excepted, from eight o’clock in the morning till nine at night, excepting on Saturday evening, and at such other times as the trustees shall direct.

“4. Subscribers desirous of making notes or extracts will be furnished, at the expense of the institution, with tables, pen, ink, paper, &c. for that purpose.

“5. Every subscriber is requested to propose any books which he may think proper for the library, or any newspaper, literary or political journal, for the reading-room, by entering its title in a book to be kept for that purpose in the library.

“6. All new books, pamphlets, magazines, and reviews shall be placed on the tables of the library and reading-room, and remain there for such length of time as may appear necessary for their perusal ; and no book, pamphlet, review, magazine, or newspaper shall be taken by subscribers out of the rooms on penalty of forfeiting their subscription.

“7. Any subscriber injuring a book and refusing to make compensation therefor, or otherwise infringing the regulations of this institution, that shall from time to time be made and published, shall be excluded from future access to the rooms until the next meeting of the trustees, when it shall be the

duty of the keeper of the room to report, and of the trustees to take order thereon.

“ 8. No inhabitant of Boston, who is not a subscriber to the institution, shall be allowed to have access to the *library* and *reading-room* ; but every subscriber shall have the liberty of introducing in person, or by card, into the reading-room any strangers, not exceeding one on the same day, not residing within five miles of the library ; who may have the same use of the books and papers granted to subscribers, provided there be entered in a book, to be kept for that purpose, the name of the stranger and of the person by whom he is introduced ; and he shall be responsible for his observing these rules and regulations.

“ 9. Any strangers, who do not choose to avail themselves of the privileges granted to them in the aforesaid article, may be permitted to become subscribers on application to any one of the trustees.

“ 10. The trustees will give a ticket of admission to all the privileges of the library and news-room, during their occasional visits, to any persons residing out of Boston, who may have made the institution a valuable present.

“ 11. The Judges of the Supreme Court, the Judges of the Circuit and District Court, the President and Professors of Harvard College, the President of the Academy of Arts and Sciences, and of the Historical Society, shall be considered as honorary members of this institution ; and the privileges allowed to each member of introducing strangers shall be extended to them.

“ 12. All money arising from subscriptions or benefactions of persons willing to encourage this institution shall be paid into the hands of the treasurer, who shall be required to lay before the trustees, at their annual meeting, a regular account of the financial concerns of the institution to that time, and as much oftener as they shall require.

“ 13. All books, which may be presented or bequeathed to the library, shall be immediately deposited there for the use of

the subscribers ; and all donations, which may be made in books or in money, shall be recorded in a book to be kept by the secretary for that purpose ; publication of which shall be made by the trustees in some public paper, printed in Boston, at such times and in such a manner as they shall determine.

“ 14. All donations, which may be made in money, shall be appropriated either to the fund for the purchase of a building, or to the purchase of such books as shall be agreeable to the wishes of the donors, if they choose to suggest them ; if not, they shall be expended in the purchase of such books in the foreign or learned languages, or in our own, as shall be deemed by the trustees to be most expedient to promote the great objects of the institution.

“ The following is a list of such periodical publications as have been ordered, many of which have been already received.

“ FRENCH. *Annales du Muséum d'Histoire Naturelle.* — *Annales de Chimie.* — *Athénéum.* — *Magazin Encyclopédique.* — *Mercur de France.* — *La Revue.* — *Archive Littéraire.* — *Journal Général de la Littérature de France.* — *Journal Général de la Littérature Etrangère.* — *Journal Polytechnique.* — *Bulletin Polymathique du Muséum d'Instruction publique de Bordeaux.*

“ *Newspapers.* *Moniteur.* — *Journal du Commerce.* — *Argus.* — *Journal Politique de Leyde.*

“ ENGLISH. *Annual Register.* — *New Annual Register.* — *Arthur Aikin's Annual Review.* — *Memoirs of Public Characters.* — *Annals of Philosophy.* — *Asiatic Annual Register.* — *British Critic.* — *Naval Chronicle.* — *Botanical Magazine.* — *Philosophical Magazine, by Tilloch.* — *Journal of Natural Philosophy, by Nicholson.* — *Medical and Physical Journal.* — *European Magazine.* — *Gentleman's Magazine.* — *Monthly Magazine.* — *Monthly Review.* — *Bell's Belle Assemblée.* — *The Athenæum, a new publication by Dr. Aikin.* — *Edinburgh Review.* — *Steel's Army and Navy List.*

“ *Newspapers.* *Porcupine's Register.* — *Bell's Weekly Messenger.* — *Morning Chronicle.* — *Courier.*

“AMERICAN. Literary Magazine, Philadelphia. — Assembly’s Missionary Magazine, do. — Evangelical Magazine, do — Coxe’s Medical Museum, do. — Theatrical Censor, do. — Port Folio, do. — Carpenter’s Register and Review, New York. — Medical Repository, do.

“*Newspapers.* *Kentucky*, The Western World, Frankfort. — *Virginia*, Enquirer, Richmond. — *South Carolina*, Charleston Courier, Charleston. — *North Carolina*, Raleigh Register, Raleigh. — *Columbia*, National Intelligencer, Washington. — *Pennsylvania*, Aurora, Philadelphia. — *Do.* Philadelphia Gazette, do. — *Do.* United States Gazette, do. — *New York*, The Balance, Hudson. — *Do.* Troy Gazette, Troy. — *Do.* Morning Chronicle, New York. — *Do.* Spectator, do. — *Do.* Herald, do. — *Do.* Watch-Tower, do. — *Do.* People’s Friend, do. — *Do.* Weekly Inspector, do.

“The Boston monthly publications and newspapers.

“All the American publications are received in exchange for the Anthology, and of course are no charge to the subscribers. The net funds of the Anthology are also to be appropriated to the increase of the library.

“As soon as arrangements can be made, a catalogue of the library will be published, with a list of the names of the donors and of the subscribers to the institution.

“The trustees will be very grateful to booksellers and printers in any part of the United States, who will have the goodness to send to them any books or pamphlets immediately on their publication. Catalogues of public libraries, of museums, and botanical institutions, literary projects, &c. &c. are also respectfully solicited.

“Although great exertions have been made to establish such a correspondence in Europe, as will most probably insure the early and punctual transmission of all interesting publications for the institution, yet considerable time must elapse before the wishes of the trustees can be completely gratified. They would therefore be greatly obliged to any gentleman for the loan or donation of any French or English periodical publica-

tions, till they can be regularly obtained at the expense of the institution.

“ Any gentlemen wishing to subscribe to the institution are desired to leave their names at the Reading-room, or at the office of W. S. Shaw, in Scollay’s Buildings.

“ Boston, Jan. 1, 1807.”

After this announcement, the Anthology Trustees, with the gentlemen they had associated with themselves above named, petitioned the legislature of Massachusetts for a charter, constituting them a body politic and corporate with the usual powers ; and, on the 13th of the succeeding February, an act was passed to that effect, in the following terms :

“ COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

“ In the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and seven.

“ AN ACT to incorporate certain persons by the name of the Proprietors of the Boston Athenæum.

“ Whereas the persons hereinafter named, together with sundry other persons, their associates, have, at a very considerable expense, collected a library, consisting of rare and valuable books ; and whereas the laudable object of their association is to form, as far as their funds shall from time to time admit, a still more valuable and extensive collection of such rare and valuable works, in ancient and modern languages, as are not usually to be met with in our country, but which are deemed indispensable to those who would perfect themselves in the sciences ; and whereas it is the further design of the said associates, when their funds shall admit thereof, to form a museum of natural and artificial curiosities and productions, scientifically arranged ; also an apparatus for the performance of experiments in the various branches of natural philosophy, and for geographical improvements, as well as a repository for

models of new and useful machines, and of statues, paintings, and other objects of the fine arts, more especially of our native artists; for which important objects no adequate provision has hitherto been made or formed within this Commonwealth, although similar establishments have long since partially existed in many of our sister States :

“Section 1. *Therefore be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same,* That Theophilus Parsons, John Davis, John Lowell, William Emerson, John T. Kirkland, Peter Thacher, William S. Shaw, Robert Hallowell Gardiner, Joseph S. Buckminster, Obadiah Rich, the present trustees of the said association, together with such other person or persons as shall from time to time be duly admitted members of the said association, according to the rules, orders, and conditions which shall or may from time to time be established by the by-laws or regulations of the corporation hereinafter created, shall for ever hereafter be, and they hereby are created, a body politic and corporate, by the name of The Proprietors of the Boston Athenæum; and by the said name shall and may sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, defend and be defended, in all and any court or courts of law or elsewhere; in all manner of actions, suits, pleas, or controversies whatsoever; and in their said corporate capacity, and by their said name, they and their successors shall be capable in law to purchase, receive, have, hold, take, possess, and enjoy, in fee simple or otherwise, lands, tenements, rents, and hereditaments, not exceeding in the whole the yearly value of two thousand dollars, exclusive of the building or buildings which may be actually occupied or used for the literary purposes aforesaid; and the said corporation shall be capable of taking, receiving, and holding, by donation, subscription, bequest, or otherwise, money, goods, chattels, effects, and credits to an amount, the yearly value of which shall not exceed three thousand dollars, so as that the estate aforesaid be appropriated for the purposes aforesaid, and for the promotion of literature, of the arts and

sciences, and not otherwise ; and moreover the said corporation shall have power to give, grant, sell, alien, convey, exchange, or lease all or any part of their lands, tenements, or other property whatsoever, for the benefit and advantage of said corporation.

“ Sect. 2. *Be it further enacted*, That it shall and may be lawful for the said corporation to have a common seal for their use and benefit, with full power to alter, change, and renew it, whenever they shall think the same expedient.

“ Sect. 3. *Be it further enacted*, That the said corporation shall have full power and authority to determine at what times and places their meetings shall be holden, and on the manner of notifying the associates or proprietors to convene at such meetings ; and they shall have power to elect, once in every year or oftener, from amongst the said proprietors, such officers with such powers as they shall judge expedient ; and also further to ordain and enact any by-laws for the due government of the said corporation, and for the due and orderly conducting of the affairs thereof ; and for and concerning all matters and things relating to said corporation ; and the same at pleasure to alter, amend, or repeal : *Provided however*, That powers vested in their said officers and the said by-laws shall not be repugnant to the constitution and laws of this Commonwealth.

“ Sect. 4. *Be it further enacted*, That, for the giving the more effectual sanction to the said by-laws, the said proprietors shall have power to impose suitable fines, not exceeding five dollars, for the non-fulfilment or breach of the same ; and that, for the recovery thereof, the said corporation shall have a suitable remedy by action at law, in any court of law within this Commonwealth proper to try the same.

“ Sect. 5. *Be it further enacted*, That the Governor, the Lieutenant-Governor, the members of the Council, of the Senate, and of the House of Representatives, for the time being, shall have free access to the library, museum, and repository of the fine arts of the said corporation, and may visit and con-

sult the same at all times, under the same regulations as may be provided by the by-laws of said corporation for the proprietors thereof.

“Sect. 6. *Be it further enacted*, That the Legislature of this Commonwealth may from time to time appoint a committee or committees to examine the state of the affairs of said corporation, and the manner in which the same may be administered, and that the said Legislature may at any time alter, amend, or repeal the charter of said corporation at their pleasure; reserving however to the proprietors for the time being their property in the buildings, funds, books, and other property, at such time appertaining to the said corporation.

“Sect. 7. *Be it further enacted*, That, whenever any proprietor shall neglect or refuse to pay any assessment duly imposed upon his share or shares in said corporation for the space of sixty days after the time set for the payment thereof, the treasurer of the said corporation is hereby authorized to sell at public vendue the share or shares of such delinquent proprietor, after duly notifying, in some newspaper printed in the town of Boston, the sum due on such share or shares, and the time and place of sale, at least thirty days before the time of sale; and such sale shall be a sufficient transfer of the share or shares so sold to the person purchasing; and, upon producing a certificate of such sale from such treasurer, such purchaser shall be entitled to a transfer of the share or shares, so sold, on the books of the corporation; and shall be considered to all intents and purposes the proprietor thereof; and the overplus of such sale, if any there be, after payment of such assessment and incidental charges, shall be paid on demand by such treasurer to the person whose shares were so sold as is before provided.

“Sect. 8. *Be it further enacted*, That the said Theophilus Parsons, John Davis, John Lowell, William Emerson, John T. Kirkland, Peter Thacher, William S. Shaw, Robert H. Gardiner, Joseph S. Buckminster, Obadiah Rich, or any three of them, shall have power to call the first meeting of the said pro-

prietors, by advertising the same three weeks successively before the time of such meeting, in some newspaper printed in the town of Boston ; and that at the said meeting the said proprietors may proceed to execute any or all the powers vested in them in this act.

“ *In the House of Representatives, February 12, 1807.*

“ This bill, having had three several readings, passed to be enacted.
PEREZ MORTON, *Speaker.*

“ *In Senate, February 12, 1807.*

“ This bill, having had two several readings, passed to be enacted.
JOHN BACON, *President.*

“ *February 13, 1807.*

“ By the Governor approved.

“ CALEB STRONG.”

The original draft of this act now exists, in the handwriting of John Lowell, who was distinguished as one of the master minds of the period, in this vicinity, and whose active and efficient labors are apparent, not only in the history of this institution, and in that of Harvard College, (kindred interests to one who loved and honored liberal learning,) but no less in the annals of agriculture and horticulture, and of the political and theological events of the time ;—over all of which no individual shed a more clear light, or exerted a more powerful influence.

CHAPTER II.

ORGANIZATION OF THE CORPORATION UNDER ITS CHARTER — A MEMOIR ISSUED OF THE HISTORY, PLAN, AND STATE OF THE INSTITUTION — RESULT OF THIS MEASURE — THE CORPORATION IN CONSEQUENCE ORGANIZED ANEW — PHILOSOPHICAL APPARATUS PURCHASED — LIFE SHARES GRANTED TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ANTHOLOGY CLUB — EMBARRASMENTS ARISING FROM PUBLIC EVENTS — CODE OF REGULATIONS ADOPTED — A SITE FOR A BUILDING PURCHASED IN TREMONT STREET — CATALOGUE OF THE LIBRARY BEGUN — AMOUNT OF THE PROPERTY OF THE ATHENÆUM IN AUGUST, 1811 — A CABINET OF NATURAL HISTORY COMMENCED — LANGUISHING STATE OF THE INSTITUTION DURING, AND AT THE CLOSE OF, THE WAR WITH GREAT BRITAIN.

THE Corporation of the Boston Athenæum was organized on the 7th of April, 1807, according to the provisions of its charter; and its subsequent history will be chiefly drawn from its official papers and records. At this first meeting, held at the office of Mr. Shaw, it was voted, that the officers of the Corporation should consist of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and five Directors,* to continue in office “until a new election shall take place, pursuant to the fundamental regulations, which shall be annexed to the terms of subscription.” Of the officers then chosen Judge Davis and Mr. Lowell were appointed a committee to draw up Rules and By-Laws, and Dr. Kirkland a committee to prepare “a Memoir in behalf of the Boston

* The officers chosen at this first meeting of the Corporation were — *President*, Theophilus Parsons. — *Vice-President*, John Davis. — *Treasurer*, John Lowell. — *Secretary*, William Smith Shaw. — *Directors*, William Emerson, John Thornton Kirkland, Peter Oxenbridge Thacher, Robert Hallowell Gardiner, Joseph Stevens Buckminster.

Athenæum, containing a plan for the admission of members, terms of subscription, the act of incorporation, &c."

Dr. Kirkland made a report of his "Memoir" at a meeting of the Corporation, holden at his house on the 21st of the same month; which having been accepted, Mr. Lowell, Dr. Kirkland, and Mr. Shaw were appointed a committee to circulate it, and obtain subscriptions. This document is so exact and thorough a statement of the history, objects, and condition of the institution at that period,—is so happy an illustration of its original design, and so powerful a representation of the advantages derived from similar institutions in other countries, and those which might reasonably be expected from the establishment and support of one in the metropolis of Massachusetts,—that it may well be considered as the basis on which public favor and patronage settled to give it encouragement and support. Notwithstanding its length, it constitutes a most important feature of the history of the Athenæum, and as such requires to be preserved without abridgment, in the form in which it was first published. It was entitled "Memoir of the Boston Athenæum, with the Act of Incorporation, and Organization of the Institution;" and was sent to every individual who was thought likely to become a subscriber, with the following letter prefixed.

"BOSTON, MAY 8th, 1807.

"SIR,—The subscribers, having been appointed by the Proprietors of the Athenæum a Committee for the purpose of soliciting subscriptions to that institution, beg leave to request your attention to the inclosed pamphlet, explaining the nature and objects of their establishment, with the terms of subscription.

"Feeling a confidence, that these objects will be thought worthy of your patronage, and hoping that from public as well as private considerations you will be induced to give it your countenance and support, they will take the liberty in a few days to call upon you with the subscription paper.

JOHN LOWELL.

JOHN T. KIRKLAND.

WILLIAM S. SHAW."

“ BOSTON ATHENÆUM.

“ The following Memoir, concerning the history, objects, and present state of the Boston Athenæum, with the terms and principles on which the rights and privileges of the Institution shall be possessed and exercised, and with remarks on the merits of the design, is respectfully submitted to the friends of improvement.

“ HISTORY, OBJECTS, AND PRESENT STATE.

“ For several years individuals in this metropolis have expressed their wishes, that there might be established here a public Reading-room ; to be kept constantly open, and to contain all the valuable journals, foreign and domestic, periodical publications, books of general reference, and other works adapted to such a place of resort. It has been thought, that an establishment of this kind, which is very common both in the large and small cities of Europe, would, if commenced here, receive liberal support, and be regarded as auxiliary to literature and to business ; useful to the public, and honorable to its founders and patrons. Having these impressions of the merit and popularity of the object, a society of gentlemen, who conduct a literary publication,* during the last year issued proposals, in which they engaged to provide a room of the forementioned description, open at ten dollars annually to each subscriber. The design was so favorably received, and so diligently pursued, that the subscription list was soon filled with a large number of respectable names. In consequence of this success, and in compliance with the wishes of many patrons of the undertaking, it was determined to extend the plan by adding a Library to the foundation. There was no room to doubt, that this addition might be made, and still the engagements relative to the Reading-room be more than executed. By the time the journals and periodical publications were received, more than a thousand volumes of valuable works,

[* The Monthly Anthology.]

principally donations, were collected and annexed to the institution. At this stage of the undertaking, the gentlemen, who had commenced and so far conducted it, in order more effectually to secure and diffuse the benefit of their past labor and expense, and realize their wishes of a respectable establishment, transferred their right and title in the Anthology Reading-room and Library to certain persons denominated Trustees, with power to supply vacancies in their number, and to hold and manage said Reading-room and Library, as a trust, under their then present name ; or to become a body corporate under the same or any other name, as they might deem expedient. The Trustees proceeded to open the rooms in such apartments and with such inspection as they could conveniently obtain ; but which they have since changed from Congress-street to No. —, Scollay's buildings, Tremont-street, where the subscribers are invited, and where they will find a degree of order and attention, which the former situation did not admit. At the same time they issued a printed sheet, containing regulations and by-laws for the conduct of the institution, which remain in force in respect to annual subscribers, and which will undoubtedly be, in substance, adopted under the new form, which the establishment may assume, pursuant to the act of incorporation.

“The Trustees conceived it expedient, and immediately took measures, to procure an act of incorporation for themselves and their future associates. In the act for this purpose, with a view to meet the sentiments and wishes of respectable persons friendly to the general design, they obtained powers to comprehend in the establishment other objects relative to the sciences and arts, to be provided for in such an extent, as may consist with the primary design of founding a Library and Reading-room. By these means, when the whole plan of the institution shall be executed, it will be subservient, not only to the acquisition, but to the communication of knowledge ; answering the double purpose of inquiry and instruction. In consequence of this enlargement of the plan, a name of more

extensive signification, than the former one, was adopted, and the Trustees, with their associates, are made a body corporate by the title of "The Proprietors of the BOSTON ATHENÆUM." The act of incorporation is subjoined to this memoir.

"The Proprietors have entered upon the execution of the powers vested in them by the said act of incorporation. After the choice of the necessary officers, they proceeded to devise methods for increasing the funds of the corporation, and extending the rights and privileges, which they had acquired. The result of their deliberations is here communicated.

"That the nature and design of the establishment may fully appear, having offered a sketch of the *history*, they will next give a particular account of the

"*Objects of the Athenæum.*—The first department of the Athenæum is the READING-ROOM, which it is proposed to have large and commodious. It is to be furnished with seats, tables, pens, ink, and paper; and to contain all the celebrated gazettes published in any part of the United States, with the most interesting literary and political pamphlets in Europe and America, with magazines, reviews, and scientific journals in the English, French, and other modern languages, memoirs of learned societies, London and Paris newspapers, Steel's Army and Navy List, Naval Chronicle, London and Paris booksellers' Catalogues, Parliamentary Debates, bibliographical works, Journals of the Congress of the United States, laws of Congress and of the State legislatures, American state-papers, maps, charts, the latest voyages and travels, and the interesting publications of the day, as they appear. The gazettes, magazines, and pamphlets, journals, state-papers, &c. to be bound in volumes, and carefully preserved for the use of the institution.

"The next branch of the Athenæum is the LIBRARY, designed to contain, in a separate apartment, the works of learning and science in all languages; particularly such rare and expensive publications, as are not generally to be obtained in this country; the most valuable encyclopædias of the arts and

sciences in the English and French languages ; standard dictionaries of the learned and principal modern languages ; also dictionaries, critical and biographical ; books of general reference, useful to the merchant and the scholar ; and finally, the works of all the best authors, ancient and modern.

“ These apartments are to be open during every week-day and evening. None of the papers or periodical works are to be taken from the rooms, except in the case of the indisposition of any proprietor or subscriber, who may have the use of the newspapers at his house, at some convenient time after their arrival, under such regulations, as shall be prescribed. Duplicates are to be provided of all those books permitted to circulate, it being intended that one copy of every work belonging to the Library shall always remain in it ; so that the proprietors and visitors of the Athenæum may be certain at all times of finding any work, which they may have occasion to read or consult.

“ The Reading-room and Library being considered leading objects and chief departments of the Athenæum, it is proposed, as far as can be done without detriment to them, to join to the foundation a MUSEUM or CABINET, which shall contain specimens from the three kingdoms of nature, scientifically arranged ; natural and artificial curiosities, antiques, coins, medals, vases, gems, and intaglios ; also, in the same or a different apartment, a REPOSITORY OF ARTS, in which shall be placed for inspection models of new and useful machines ; likewise drawings, designs, paintings, engravings, statues, and other objects of the fine arts, and especially the productions of our native artists.

“ Lastly, the plan of the Athenæum includes a LABORATORY, and an APPARATUS for experiments in chemistry and natural philosophy, for astronomical observations, and geographical improvements, to be used under the direction of the corporation.

“ The history of this establishment, and a description of its objects being given, it is proper to exhibit

“ *The Means, Resources, and Present State of the Athenæum.*

— The Reading-room is largely supplied with the works mentioned above, and is receiving daily additions. A list of some of the publications ordered, and chiefly obtained, may be seen at the end.

“ The Library already contains many interesting and important works. The number of volumes is more than twelve hundred, and is continually increasing by donations and deposits, as well as by purchase. There is reason to believe, that, when the apartments shall be sufficiently capacious to admit them, one or more of the libraries, belonging to particular societies or individuals, will be annexed to the Athenæum, or be placed on the shelves of its Library.

“ The *means* and *resources*, now possessed by this institution, are : —

“ 1. The annual subscription ; there being one hundred and sixty subscribers, at ten dollars a year.

“ 2. The American papers and publications, with several periodical publications from abroad, are furnished by the proprietors of the Monthly Anthology free of expense ; and the net funds of the same work are appropriated to the support and increase of the Reading-room and Library.

“ 3. An apparatus of value, belonging to a Society for the study of natural philosophy, is offered to be incorporated with the Athenæum on favorable conditions ; so that this part of the establishment cannot, at present, require any considerable expense.

“ 4. It is well to observe, that, as the institution shall advance in importance and celebrity, donations and legacies may be expected to prove a source of continual additions to the various departments of the Athenæum.

“ To those, who consider this account of the *history, objects*, and *present state* of the institution, it will readily occur, that an essential requisite to its enlargement and prosperity is a suitable building in a central part of the town. It will also occur, that the present proprietors are bound to extend the

rights, powers, and privileges of proprietors of the Athenæum to others on proper conditions. With a view, therefore, to diffuse and perpetuate the benefits and enjoyments of this establishment, and to raise the necessary funds for a building and other purposes, relative to the general object, the present proprietors offer the plan and terms of subscription to the Boston Athenæum, which are annexed to this memoir.

“ The objects, the situation, the resources and prospects of this institution being described, and the terms of admission to an interest and power in it proposed, the subject might here be left, without further comment, to the consideration of the enlightened and liberal, in the confidence that all the inducements, public and private, to espouse the establishment, will have their just operation. But though it may not be necessary, yet it may be useful, and tend to prevent misconception and remove doubt, to show the *merits of the design*, and to justify the method devised for carrying it into effect.

“ In the apprehension of those, who invite the public attention to the subject, this institution deserves approbation and support, as productive of utility and enjoyment ; as ornamental to the metropolis, and honorable to its patrons. They also conceive, that it is proposed at a suitable time ; and that it involves no extravagant demand upon the pecuniary resources, from which the necessary funds are expected.

“ The Athenæum may be recommended as a place of social intercourse. But it will principally be useful as a source of information, and a means of intellectual improvement and pleasure. It is to be a fountain, at which all, who choose, may gratify their thirst for knowledge.

“ The value of learning, whatever incidental evils it may produce, is admitted by all who are qualified to judge upon the subject. Besides the dignity and satisfaction associated with the cultivation of letters and arts, and which constitute their worth to the individual, they have unlimited uses in respect to the community. Speculative and practical philosophy, his-

tory, polite literature, and the arts, bear an important relation to all the conveniences and elegancies of life, to all the good institutions of society, and to all the great interests of man, viewed as a rational and social, a moral and religious being. Not only, however, should those deep investigations of science and exquisite refinements of taste, which are necessarily confined to a few, be held in respect, as connected with the general welfare; but that love of intellectual improvement and pleasure, and that propensity to reading and inquiry, which are capable of being diffused through considerable portions of the community, should be regarded with interest and promoted with zeal among a civilized and flourishing people. They belong to the regular progress of society. A nation, that increases in wealth, without any corresponding increase in knowledge and refinement, in letters and arts, neglects the proper and respectable uses of prosperity. A love of intellectual improvement, and of the various objects of literature and taste, in a state or society enjoying freedom and affluence, is to be coveted and maintained, because it produces the best exercise and application of the faculties; because it strengthens and multiplies the ties, that bind men together; because it enhances the value and satisfaction of social intercourse by supplying worthy and interesting topics of conversation; because it heightens the enjoyment of all the blessings of life, and enables us to derive advantage and pleasure from a multitude of new sources; because, on the whole, it tends to the removal of error and the discovery of truth, and has a friendly aspect upon the interests of virtue and religion.

“When we admit the dignity and use of the science of the learned, the taste of the refined, and the improved and cultivated character of the citizens at large, we must also admit that these objects require a fostering care, and will not be obtained without adequate means and incentives. That the institution here proposed, if well begun and liberally supported, must prove in a high degree auxiliary to these purposes, will not, it is presumed, be called in question.

“The Athenæum will contain a variety, adapted to the diversity of the dispositions, views, and characters of its patrons and visitors.

“Every class of readers must derive profit and pleasure from a constant access to the foreign and domestic journals, and the periodical publications and pamphlets of the day. They must resort with great advantage to a place in which will be found the latest political and commercial intelligence, accounts of the state of literature, arts, and discoveries, the controversies and discussions that successively prevail, and those fugitive pieces and small tracts, which it is difficult or impossible for any individual to collect, but which are necessary to satisfy our curiosity, or complete our information, concerning the opinions, events, learning, politics, and manners of the times in which we live. In proportion as this department of the Library and Reading-room shall be replenished by the accumulations of successive years, its value will be enhanced; and it will descend to posterity a rich and increasing treasure.

“By resorting to the Athenæum the man of business will have the means of intellectual activity and enjoyment, without any injurious interruption of his ordinary pursuits, or “the more urgent concerns of life”; and the man of leisure will find ample means of rational and interesting occupation.

“The inquisitive merchant must prize the opportunity of being able to consult a large collection of those works, which relate to commerce; as well as find an accommodation in the early and exact commercial intelligence from various and opposite regions of the globe, which the papers and documents in the Reading-room will generally furnish.

“The researches of those, who attend to the constitution of society, the form and administration of governments, politics, and finance, must be greatly facilitated by the assemblage, in one place, of the best and newest treatises upon these subjects of inquiry, of statistical tables and works, and state-papers.

“The historian, and the reader of history, will here be able to perfect their information by a recourse to standard works of

general and particular history ; and especially such as relate to our own country. It is intended, that this institution shall coöperate with others, appropriated to this object, by procuring, as soon as circumstances admit, every tract, book, and journal, serving to illustrate the civil and natural, the literary and ecclesiastical history of America, and more particularly of the United States.

“Gentlemen of each of the learned professions must derive important assistance, in their respective pursuits, from the liberty of consulting both those fugitive and periodical publications, which may exhibit the history and state of their respective professions, and the sciences and arts on which they are founded, at successive periods ; and also those large, valuable, and expensive works, which it may be inconvenient to most individuals to purchase.

“To men of letters, and studious inquirers in general, this establishment will offer facilities in study, hitherto not enjoyed ; but highly desirable and even necessary. In this country nothing can exceed the inconvenience, arising from the want of large libraries, to those persons who aim at superior attainments and accurate researches. This is one of the circumstances, which account for the small number of finished scholars and finished works, of which we have to boast. As much time, as is necessary for reading a particular book, is often consumed in attempts to discover or obtain it ; and frequently, after every inquiry, the book wanted cannot be procured. Those who, not content with superficial knowledge, would arrive at exactness in any subjects of science, history, or taste, either give over their pursuit, because destitute of the assistance, which the learned in the same walk have furnished, or continue it under the disadvantage of their ignorance of what has been done by their predecessors. Hence they are liable to be occupied in “solving difficulties, which have already been cleared ; discussing questions, which have already been decided ; and digging in mines of literature, which former ages have exhausted.” If the uses of this institution were

more immediately confined, than they are, to literary men, or to those who wish to perfect themselves in sciences and literature, it would be worthy of the munificent spirit of our opulent citizens to give effect to a plan for affording to persons, ambitious of superior acquisitions, the means of extensive knowledge, and the gratification of an adequate supply of books.

“The good effects, which this establishment may have respecting young persons, deserve particular attention. Where they are of proper age and deportment, they will have access to the rooms of the Athenæum on the same terms as others. The attractions of the place will induce many of them to pass that time in useful reading, which is now wasted or misapplied. Their resort to this fund of instruction and entertainment will tend to inspire them with laudable curiosity. It will serve to withdraw them from gross relaxations and hurtful pleasures, by the desire of enlarging their minds and improving their taste. Parents, who consider the temptations surrounding young men, and the connection between employment and innocence, will not regard this use of the Athenæum with indifference.

“The ladies have at least an indirect interest in this design. Whatever raises the character of men has a favorable influence upon that of the other sex. Undoubtedly when the citizens are sensible and well-informed, the intercourse of the sexes is proportionably more rational and agreeable. But, if the progress of the institution shall be equal to the wishes and expectations of its friends, it will include a plan of instruction by lectures, on which the ladies will be invited to attend. By their admission to this privilege, as well as by the use of the circulating books of the library, and the right of access to the other apartments, they will have more than an indirect share in the advantages of the Athenæum.

“To these different classes of persons, in the several ways described, this institution, and particularly the Library and Reading-room, will be useful. To the same persons, to

others, and to the public, must the subordinate branches of the Athenæum prove beneficial. The *Repository of Models* is adapted to promote the speedy and general knowledge of new and useful improvements, relating to the necessary arts and trades, and will be resorted to by artisans with particular advantage.

“It is well known, that a taste in the fine and pleasing arts cannot be formed, without specimens to serve for example and illustration. By a *Repository* for productions in these arts, we shall provide for the improvement and emulation of artists, and for the correction and refinement of taste in those, who aim to be connoisseurs, and able to bestow praise and censure with discrimination. It concerns the public interest, as well as honor, that the higher classes of society, and possessors of superfluous wealth, should prefer elegant and innoxious luxuries to those of a different character; and should be patrons and judges of what is excellent in the fine and liberal arts.

“The *Museum*, by its collection of natural objects, scientifically arranged, will both excite and gratify that disposition to study nature, which is always safe and sometimes profitable and important, by means of the discoveries and improvements to which it leads. This department of the institution will preserve, for constant inspection, a multitude of productions, natural and artificial, either curious or useful, brought from different countries, which are not now obtained; or, being obtained, are lost through want of a proper receptacle, in which they may be placed.

“The *Laboratory* and *Apparatus* may be used, when it shall be found practicable, for the purpose of lectures on chemistry, natural philosophy, and astronomy. The usefulness of a course of popular instruction upon these and other related subjects, calculated to interest the young of both sexes, and to diffuse as well as extend the knowledge of the laws and operations of nature, need not be displayed.

“In these respects it is conceived the proposed institution will be productive of utility.

“ If it is viewed, in the next place, as a source of rational enjoyment, it will appear to merit the support it requires. It is obvious to all, who attend to human nature, or the history of human society, and it is verified by observing the state of manners in our own country, that affluence and prosperity are ever attended by a correspondent passion for amusement and pleasure in their diversified forms. It is equally obvious, that whatever serves to correct and regulate this passion is an additional security to public and private morals. In this view it must be acknowledged important, not only to check that dissipation which enervates and depraves, but also to moderate and qualify a propensity to what are deemed less exceptionable modes of pleasure, — to show and equipage, convivial entertainments, festive assemblies, and theatrical exhibitions. One effectual method of accomplishing this purpose is to promote a relish for the pleasures of knowledge, and a taste for liberal pursuits and studies. The satisfactions, flowing from these sources, tend to strengthen, not debilitate, the mind ; to subdue, not inflame, the passions. They are friendly to cheerfulness and the social virtues, and serve to disengage the feelings from ignoble gratifications. In these respects therefore, as tending to substitute mental occupation for sensual indulgence, and to create a fund of rational and salutary enjoyments in a place and state of society, where the love of pleasure and the means of it are continually augmenting, and where expense is not grudged to amusements of a different nature, it is presumed this institution will be thought to deserve the countenance of the wise and patriotic.

“ It will not be pretended, that the use and necessity of this institution, for the purposes described, are superseded by any establishments already existing in the town ; however valuable they may be in themselves, or adapted to their particular objects. All the departments of the Athenæum, excepting the Library, are new, and not included in the plan of any other public establishment ; and the Library is constituted upon principles and with regulations, by means of which it does not

interfere with the interest of any other in operation, and at the same time is fitted to answer the exigencies of science and literature. Besides, when the building for the Athenæum shall be erected, other libraries, if their proprietors choose, may be united with this, or placed on its shelves, and thus be rendered more secure, more accessible and useful, than their present situations admit.

“ It was observed, that this institution will be *ornamental* to the metropolis. In the form of the building, the distribution of the rooms, and the selection and arrangement of the various objects they will contain, neatness and elegance will be consulted along with convenience.

“ This establishment, it was said, will confer honor on its patrons. For it must be acknowledged honorable to apply wealth to some of its noblest uses ; to join to a spirit of commercial enterprise a just estimate of the value of letters and arts ; and to lay a permanent foundation for their cultivation and advancement through successive periods.

“ The example and success of the more wealthy inhabitants of other cities at home and abroad, in originating and conducting similar undertakings, are worthy of attention, as calculated both to guide and to stimulate our liberality.

“ The Athenæum of Liverpool has been visited with delight and admiration by numbers of our countrymen ; and it is but one of several institutions of a like nature in that city. It includes a public news-room of a superior kind, occupying the ground floor of 2000 square feet ; and a library, of a narrower base, but greater elevation, lying over the first, and lighted from above. It was begun in January, 1798, for three hundred and fifty subscribers, who were to pay ten guineas each, as a capital, and two guineas annually. The whole was completed for 4000*l.* sterling. After six months, it being found sufficient for the accommodation of a larger number, seventy-five new subscribers were admitted at twenty guineas each. At the end of a year, seventy-five more, at thirty guineas each, were admitted ; and the shares immediately rose to thirty-five

and forty guineas. Thus a large sum was added to the capital of the institution; and the income, destined to the increase and support of the Library, was at that time estimated at four hundred guineas annually.

“The city of London is known to have abounded for ages with foundations for the sciences, literature, and arts. Two have within a few years been added to those before existing, and supported with a liberality, which we cannot indeed be expected to rival, but which we may properly imitate, according to our exigencies and means. One of these is the Royal Institution, commenced under the auspices of our countryman, Count Rumford, designed for “diffusing the knowledge and facilitating the introduction of useful mechanical inventions and improvements; and for teaching, by courses of philosophical lectures and experiments, the application of science to the common purposes of life.” Another is the London Institution, having three objects; — “1. The acquisition of a valuable and extensive library. 2. The diffusion of useful knowledge by means of lectures and experiments. 3. The establishment of a reading-room, where the foreign and domestic journals and other periodical works, and the best pamphlets and new publications, are provided for the use of the proprietors and subscribers.” The persons, having the benefit of these institutions are classed much in the manner proposed in the Boston Athenæum, consisting of hereditary proprietors, life subscribers, annual subscribers, and occasional visitors. Within a few hours after the proposals for the London Institution were issued, all the shares were taken to the amount of 100,000*l.* sterling.

“Establishments, similar to these, but upon a smaller scale, are found in other cities of Great Britain, probably inferior in opulence and population to this metropolis; and they are provided in the populous places of other countries in Europe.

“If we look to the principal towns and cities in our own country, though in general liberality, and in some instances, in disbursements for objects of science and the interests of educa-

tion, we may court a comparison, yet, in *this mode* of patronizing literature, we find them before us. The Charleston Library Society, incorporated in 1754, has made very respectable progress in collecting books. The rooms are open during the principal part of every day, and afford a place of resort for reading and conversation. The merchants and scholars of Baltimore have recently provided themselves with an ample institution of the same kind. The library of the Philadelphia Library Company is well known. It was founded in 1731. Before the year 1769 other social libraries, which had been erected, were annexed to this. In late years it has been much augmented by donations and purchases; and is advancing to great splendor and utility. In the same city an institution, for the fine arts alone, has been commenced with an endowment nearly as large, as would be necessary to put the more extensive design here proposed, into operation.

“In the city of New York much has recently been done for the promotion of these objects.

“The cultivated character and the liberal spirit of the Bostonians have been subjects of encomium. It is probable, that the countenance, afforded to this proposal, will furnish a new instance to justify their claim to this praise.

“This institution, it was said, is proposed at a suitable time. It bears a correspondence to the advancement of society and the state of the metropolis. Boston now contains a sufficient number of those who need, or who can enjoy and improve, the advantages and pleasures of the Athenæum. There is a prevailing opinion, that objects of this kind should now engage attention. As a long course of time will be necessary, for the maturity and perfection of the design, it is certainly not too soon to begin. Whatever be the embarrassments and hazards attending the prosecution of our commerce, it is notwithstanding highly productive, and the class of persons enjoying easy circumstances, and possessing surplus wealth, is comparatively numerous. As we are not called upon for large contributions to national purposes, we shall do well to take advantage of the

exemption, by taxing ourselves for those institutions, which will be attended with lasting and extensive benefit, amidst all changes of our public fortunes and political affairs.

“ Finally it was said, that the proposal of this institution involves no extravagant demand upon the pecuniary resources of those, to whom it looks for support ; and may be considered entirely practicable. Although it is projected upon a broad foundation, which will admit the expenditure of an indefinite sum, yet it may be commenced and prosecuted with limited means. The only requisite to its operation is a suitable building. This being provided, the income from annual subscribers and occasional visitors,* with donations, will probably be sufficient to secure its support and increase, if it will not give it splendor. But more than this may reasonably be wished and hoped. Not to mention what may be expected from life subscribers, it is only necessary, that one hundred and fifty persons shall be willing to vest in the Athenæum a sum for a capital, the interest of which is little more than the price of four half-weekly, and less than that of two daily papers, in order to raise a fund, which will put the institution in a very prosperous course ; and which, besides procuring the building, will leave a considerable sum to be funded for annual use. By paying these three hundred dollars once, they will, without being subject to any subsequent expense, secure to themselves, their assigns, and heirs, a right in an establishment, which is begun under favorable prospects, and which must of course be acquiring additional value and importance every day. Under these circumstances, it may be said, without hesitation, that, whilst the subscribers for shares in the Athenæum will have the satisfaction of being the patrons of an excellent design, they will, at the same time, be exposed to no sacrifice of property. For the shares being limited in number, subject to no assessment,

* The words “and occasional visitors” were omitted in this document, as printed simultaneously in the *Monthly Anthology* (for May, 1807,) nor were such visitors ever made a source of income.

and liable to be transferred and inherited, will always retain their value, and probably appreciate. The result of experience in similar institutions in Europe, commenced under no greater advantages than belong to the Athenæum, is entirely in favor of this calculation.

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 “The following is a list of such periodical publications, as have been ordered; all of which are regularly received at the Athenæum, excepting some of the French, which are daily expected. Through the politeness of Mr. W. S. Skinner of this town, merchant, the Directors have established such a correspondence with the house of Messrs. Jenner & Co., London, as insures the early and punctual transmission of all the English publications. They have already received them as late as the 17th March, 1807. The Directors avail themselves of this opportunity to acknowledge their grateful sense of the fidelity, with which their commissions have been executed by those gentlemen.

[Then follows, with slight additions, the list of publications inserted above; * next, the Act of Incorporation; † then a copy of the record of the meeting of May 7th, setting forth the organization of the institution, and a list of the officers chosen.‡]

“The above-mentioned officers and proprietors of the Athenæum respectfully submit to the consideration of the public the foregoing plan and remarks, explanatory of the nature, design, and objects of the institution, together with the terms and conditions of subscription, which are hereunto annexed.

“THEO. PARSONS, *President*.

“WM. S. SHAW, *Secretary*.

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 “TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION TO THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM.

“1. The estate, effects, and property of the Boston Athenæum shall be vested in the holders of shares, under the title of the Proprietors of the Boston Athenæum; the number of shares shall not exceed one hundred and fifty; and no individual shall hold more than three shares.

* See pp. 16, 17.

† See pp. 18-22.

‡ See p. 23.

“ 2. The price of each share is three hundred dollars ; to be paid thirty-three and one third per cent. in sixty days, and the remainder in two equal payments, the first in one year, the second in two years, from the date of these proposals ; notes to be given to the treasurer of the Athenæum for the amount, unless the subscriber shall choose to pay the whole sum at once.

“ RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF THE PROPRIETORS.

“ A proprietor shall have, for every share he may own, two tickets of admission to the Athenæum ; one of said tickets transferable according to the regulations to be adopted ; and he shall also have the right of introducing strangers according to said regulations.

“ Every proprietor shall have a right to transfer his share or shares by will, or other instrument in writing ; and his share or shares shall be inheritable personal property ; these rights to be exercised under such limitations and in such form and manner, as the proprietors shall prescribe.

“ The subscribers for proprietors' shares shall not be required to pay any further contribution, after the price of their shares shall have been once paid ; and they shall be secured against all future claims and demands upon them on account of any debt, which the institution may contract.

“ LIFE SUBSCRIBERS.

“ It is also proposed to admit another class of subscribers, called *Subscribers for Life*.

“ The price of a life share to be one hundred dollars ; to be paid one half in sixty days, and the other half in one year.

“ Every such subscriber shall have one ticket of admission to every part of the Athenæum, transferable under such terms and conditions, as the proprietors may prescribe.

“ THE GOVERNMENT

of the Athenæum shall be in the Proprietors, or in such persons as they shall choose from among themselves.

“ When shares to a sufficient number shall have been taken, the President and Secretary for the time being shall call a meeting of the subscribers for proprietors’ shares ; who, together with the present and then existing proprietors, shall enter upon the exercise of the powers vested in them ; organize the corporation ; designate and choose officers ; devise means for increasing the funds of the institution, and direct the mode of applying them ; take measures to erect or purchase the necessary buildings ; determine the evidence which each proprietor shall have of his share or shares ; define and establish the rights of proprietors, life subscribers, annual subscribers, and occasional visitors ; make such further regulations as shall be judged expedient ; and generally execute all powers granted by the act of incorporation, and expressed in the terms and conditions here published.

“ Boston, 8th May, 1807.”

On the 18th of June, about a month after the circulation of the preceding Memoir, Mr. Lowell, on behalf of the committee, reported to a meeting of the Directors, held at the office of Mr. Shaw, that they had obtained subscriptions for one hundred and fifty shares at *three hundred dollars* each (\$45,000), which was the whole amount proposed to be raised by the original plan.

The following is a copy of the original subscription list, one share being taken where a larger number is not mentioned. The list was preceded by the “ Terms of Subscription.”

“ We, the subscribers, do agree to take the number of Proprietors’ Shares set against our respective names, and do engage to make the payments and fulfil the conditions prescribed in the foregoing terms of subscription for proprietors’ shares in the Boston Athenæum.

Stephen Higginson,	Josiah Quincy, (3.)	James Perkins,
Harrison Gray Otis,	Samuel Eliot,	Allan Pollock,
John Lowell, (2.)	Isaac P. Davis,	John C. Brown,

Jonathan Mason,	A. W. Atherton,	Samuel Salisbury,
Sam'l Salisbury, Jr.	Samuel May,	Joseph Tilden,
George Higginson,	Timothy Bigelow,	Charles Davis,
Samuel G. Perkins,	Stephen Jones, Jr.	John C. Howard,
Richard Derby,	Daniel Ingalls,	Peter C. Brooks,
Thomas Perkins,	Bryant P. Tilden,	William Savage,
Daniel Sargent,	Robert Lamb,	Thomas K. Jones,
Joseph Head,	Isaac Parker,	N. R. Sturgis,
Thomas H. Perkins,	Benjamin Joy,	Joseph W. Revere,
William Pickman,	J. Lloyd, Jr.	William Ingalls,
Uriah Cotting,	John Gore,	John Heard, Jr.
John T. Apthorp,	Allan Melville,	John Rice,
Benjamin Bussey,	Joseph Coolidge, Jr.	John May, Jr.
Thomas C. Amory,	C. Bradbury,	William Spooner,
Jonathan Davis,	William Ritchie,	William Oliver,
T. W. Storrow,	Eben Preble,	Perkins Nichols,
Peter [O.] Thacher,	John Prince, Jr.	Shubael Bell,
Samuel Torrey,	Samuel Parkman,	Israel Munson,
John Callender,	Kirk Boott,	Thomas Burley,
Samuel Dexter,	Ed. Tuckerman, Jr.	William R. Gray,
Thomas Bartlett,	Thos. L. Winthrop,	William Story,
John Quincy Adams,	Timothy Williams,	Henry Cary,
Charles Lowell,	Wm. Smith Shaw,	Eben'r T. Andrews,
John R. Parker,	Adam Babcock,	George G. Lee,
John Hancock,	William Sawyer,	Thomas Cushing,
John L. Sullivan,	Judah Hays,	Joseph Hurd, Jr.
Cornelius Coolidge,	J. Parker,	Isaiah Thomas,
Samuel D. Parker,	William Wood,	W. Cochran,
Francis J. Oliver,	Abraham Touro,	Charles Bulfinch,
Oliver Putnam,	Samuel D. Harris,	Benjamin Whitwell,
Nathan Appleton,	John Davis,	H. J. Andrews,
S. Higginson, Jr. (2.)	Gardiner Greene,	S. Jackson Prescott,
John Richards,	D. S. Bradstreet,	John Binney,
Andrew Craigie,	Edward Blake, Jr.	James Prentiss,
Stephen Codman,	Nathaniel Goddard,	Theodore Lyman,
George Blake,	John B. Frazier,	Russell Sturgis,

Caleb Loring,	Benjamin Weld,	Micajah Sawyer,
Ebenezer Stocker,	Wm. V. Hutchings,	David West, Jr.
Andrew Dexter, Jr.	John Warren,	James Bowdoin,
William Phillips, (3.)	Joshua Davis,	R. Fletcher,
Stephen McLellan,	Benjamin Rich,	Joseph Hall,
John Smith,	Thomas Hill, Jr.	Timothy Fuller,
B. Pickman, Jr.	R. H. Gardiner,	Jonathan Phillips,
Francis C. Lowell,	David S. Eaton,	Seth Knowles,
M. R. Bartlett,	Eben Larkin,	William Prescott,
Nathaniel Amory,	Nehemiah Parsons,	John Codman.
Eliphalet Williams,		

“ LIFE SUBSCRIBERS.

“ We, the subscribers, do agree to take the number of Life Shares, in the Boston Athenæum, set against our respective names, and to make the payments required of life subscribers, and to fulfil the conditions prescribed in the terms of subscription for such subscribers.

James Jackson,	Joseph McKean,	Samuel C. Thacher,
Charles Jackson,	John Gorham,	William Tudor, Jr.
Edmund T. Dana,	John S. J. Gardiner,	William Wells,
Benjamin Welles,	John T. Kirkland,	Charles Tappan,
William Emerson,	Robert Field,	Isaac Mansfield,
James Savage,	Winthrop Sargent,	Octavius Pickering.”

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This success was regarded as evidence that the patronage of the community might be relied upon, and a new organization was deemed requisite to give to the new proprietors their due weight. To this end, it was voted that a new meeting of the proprietors be called for electing officers, defining their powers, and appointing agents for the purchase of land and the erection of the building then contemplated. “ The Society for Promoting Philosophical Knowledge ” having proposed “ to unite their apparatus with the Boston Athenæum on terms mutually beneficial,” it was

voted to receive it at the price of one thousand dollars, "giving credit to the members of the Society for their respective proportions, to go towards their subscriptions to the Athenæum;" and, where they were not subscribers, they were to give their proportions "to promote the objects of the Athenæum," — lectures on natural philosophy being at this time comprehended within its design. At the same meeting, certificates for life shares in the Athenæum were voted to all the members of the Anthology Club, in consideration of their having "generously made over and conveyed to the Trustees a valuable collection of books on hand, a considerable importation of new books just arrived from England, an annual subscription, which they had procured for their own establishment, and the profits resulting from the publication of the Anthology." These donations were considered as bringing more value to the Athenæum, than if the donors had paid for life shares; besides that several of them had also "become subscribers to the Athenæum, notwithstanding the above generous donations." In the vote, the names of several persons were inserted, who did not belong to the Anthology Club when the transfer of its property was made, but who, having been since that time admitted members, were regarded as entitled to the privilege, as editors of the Anthology.

The first meeting which included the new proprietors was held on the 16th, and, by adjournment, on the 17th of July, 1807, at the hall of the Massachusetts Bank; when it was voted, that the officers of the corporation should be a President, Vice-President, Secretary, and Treasurer, who were to be members *ex officio* of the board of Trustees; and that this board should consist of the abovementioned officers and eight other persons, and be empowered to manage all affairs of the corporation, of what nature soever, in a manner not repugnant to the terms of the subscrip-

tion, or the fundamental regulations adopted by the proprietors.*

The by-laws and regulations they might make, were to have force until the first subsequent meeting of the proprietors, to whom they were to be submitted for approbation or dissent. *Five* of the Trustees constituted a quorum for granting moneys, and *three* for ordinary business. It was at the same time voted, that, after the present year, the election of officers should take place annually on the first Tuesday in August.

Of the capital stock, it was ordered that *ten thousand* dollars be invested, and the interest applied to current expenses and exigencies; that *twenty-five thousand* be applied to the purchase of land and the erection of a suitable building; *fifteen hundred* to the purchase of philosophical instruments; *one thousand* to the purchase of objects suited for a museum of natural and artificial curiosities, and objects of the fine arts; and all the other funds to the purchase of books, maps, charts, and other literary works, at the discretion of the Trustees.

The design of erecting a building was soon abandoned. The attack upon the frigate Chesapeake by the British, the measures adopted by our government in retaliation of it, and the general indications of a rupture with Great Britain, were precursors of pecuniary difficulties and embarrassments affecting all the money operations of the community. In this state of things, the Trustees of the Athenæum, at the first meeting after their appointment, on the 22d of August, 1807, voted, that it was "inexpedient to

* At this meeting were elected: *President*, Theophilus Parsons; *Vice-President*, John Davis; *Treasurer*, John Lowell; *Secretary*, William Smith Shaw; *Trustees*, William Emerson, John Thornton Kirkland, Peter Oxenbridge Thacher, Robert Hallowell Gardiner, Joseph Stevens Buckminster, Harrison Gray Otis, James Perkins, and Samuel Eliot.

attempt to increase the number of proprietors' shares at the present moment"; and, at their next meeting, on the 2d of October, that, in their opinion, it was inexpedient at present to proceed, in execution of the vote of the proprietors, to purchase land and erect an edifice for the purposes of the institution, in consequence of "certain public events" which had taken place since that vote was passed.

The embarrassed relations of the country arising from embargoes, non-intercourse, and ultimately war with Great Britain, created insurmountable obstacles to the increase of the institution. A policy, which had paralyzed all the commercial energy of the period, left the friends of the Athenæum no resource for its advancement, but their personal efforts. They authorized the Secretary to hire an additional room, and fit it up for the immediate accommodation of the subscribers, took measures for the safe investment of their funds, and appointed a committee "for the purpose of purchasing such rare and valuable works, and articles for the apparatus and museum, as shall be thought useful for the establishment, under the limitations prescribed by the proprietors."

On the 7th of April, 1808, the Trustees adopted a set of rules for the government of the institution; which the proprietors, on the 11th of August, after reëlecting the officers of the preceding year, approved by their vote. They were as follows:

"1. Annual subscribers may be admitted at ten dollars per annum; the subscription right to end on the 31st day of December of the year when the subscription may be made.

"2. Proprietors and subscribers shall be furnished with tickets signed by the President or Vice-President, and by the Secretary, expressing their respective rights.

"3. The tickets of proprietors and of life-subscribers shall admit the bearers of them to the privileges of the institution,

with restrictions as to inhabitants of Boston, or of places within twenty miles of Boston, as provided in a subsequent article. To prevent the trouble of calling for a ticket of admission on each visit, proprietors and life subscribers may make a temporary transfer of the tickets of admission, which they may be entitled to hold, for a term not less than one month; which transfer shall be recorded by the Secretary, and be notified to the Librarian.

“ 4. Rights and shares in this institution shall be indivisible.

“ 5. Proprietors and life subscribers shall be furnished with certificates of their property, under the seal of the corporation, signed by the President, and countersigned by the Secretary, and in such form as the Trustees shall direct.

“ 6. Transfers of shares shall be made by surrender of the certificates of property and by granting new certificates, subject to the approbation of the Trustees; and a record of all transfers shall be made by the Secretary.

“ 7. The library and reading-room shall be open every day (Sunday excepted) from eight o'clock in the morning till nine at night, and at such other times as the Trustees shall direct.

“ 8. Proprietors, subscribers, and visitors, desirous of making notes and extracts, will be furnished, at the expense of the institution, with tables, pens, ink, paper, &c., for that purpose.

“ 9. Proprietors and subscribers may propose any books which they may think proper for the library; or any newspaper, literary or political journal, for the reading-room, by entering the title in a book, which shall be kept for that purpose in the library.

“ 10. All new books, pamphlets, magazines, and reviews shall be placed on the tables of the library or reading-room, and remain there for such length of time as may appear necessary for their perusal; and no book, pamphlet, review, magazine, or newspaper shall be taken by any proprietor, subscriber, or visiter, out of the rooms. Any proprietor or life subscriber, infringing this article, shall forfeit his privilege in

the institution for one year ; and annual subscribers shall forfeit the privilege of their subscription by a similar offence.

“ 11. Any proprietor or subscriber, injuring a book and refusing to make compensation therefor, or otherwise infringing the regulations of this institution, that shall from time to time be made and published, shall be excluded from future access to the rooms until the next meeting of the Trustees, when it shall be the duty of the Librarian to report, and of the Trustees to take order thereon.

“ 12. No inhabitant of Boston, or of any town or place within twenty miles of Boston, who is not a proprietor or subscriber to the institution, or a member of the family of a proprietor or life subscriber, bearing their ticket, shall be allowed access to the library or reading-room, unless by consent of the Trustees or of their committee ; but any stranger, not living or usually residing within twenty miles of Boston, may be introduced by any proprietor or life subscriber, personally or by their card or note addressed to the Librarian. And any person, thus introduced, may have the same use of the books and papers as is allowed to subscribers, provided there be entered in a book, to be kept for that purpose, the name of such stranger and of the person by whom he may be introduced, such person to be responsible for his observing the rules and regulations of the institution. Any number of persons, accompanying a proprietor on a visit to the rooms of the institution, may be admitted.

“ 13. The Trustees may give tickets of admission to all the privileges of the library and reading-room, during occasional visits, to any person, residing out of Boston, who may have made a donation to the institution to the amount of *fifty dollars*.

“ 14. The judges of the Supreme Judicial Court, the judges of the Circuit and District Courts, the President and Professors of Harvard College, the President of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and of the Historical Society, the President of the Massachusetts Medical Society, and the President of the Agricultural Society, shall be considered honorary mem-

bers of the institution, and entitled to its privileges. The use of the reading-room and library shall also be allowed to the tutors, librarian, regent, proctors, and resident graduates of said College.

“ 15. All books, which may be presented or bequeathed to the institution, shall be immediately deposited in the library ; and all donations which may be made, whether in books, money, or other property, shall be recorded in a book to be kept by the Secretary for that purpose ; and a publication of such donations shall be made by the Trustees in some public paper, printed in Boston, at such times and in such manner as they shall determine.

“ 16. All donations shall be strictly appropriated and applied according to the will or direction of the donors, expressed at the time of the donation. If no special appropriation be directed by the donors, such donations shall be applied to the benefit of the institution, as the Trustees may direct. And in all books given to the institution or purchased with the proceeds of any donation, there shall be pasted a label at the beginning, expressing the name of the donor.

“ 17. A complete catalogue of all the books and pamphlets belonging to the institution shall be constantly in each of the apartments for the inspection of visitors.

“ 18. Conversation in the library or reading-room, to the disturbance of others, is prohibited.

“ 19. There shall be an annual examination, ten days at least, before the annual meeting, of the library, reading-room, and of all the property of the institution, by a committee of proprietors to be chosen at the preceding annual meeting. The examination of the present year shall be made by a committee of the Trustees ; and reports of the examining committees of the state and condition of the library and reading-room, and of the property and concerns of the institution, shall be made to the proprietors, at their annual meeting.

“ 20. There shall be a meeting of the Trustees on the first Mondays of January, April, July, and October, annually, at

6 o'clock P. M. at the library, or at such other place as may be notified to them by the President, or Vice-President, to deliberate and decide on the affairs committed to their trust. They shall keep regular minutes of their proceedings, and take care to preserve exact order and the strictest economy in the management of all the affairs of the institution.

“21. It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to keep exact and detailed accounts of all the property belonging to the institution, as also of all receipts and expenditures; and he shall make such exhibits of the pecuniary concerns of the institution, at the stated meetings of the Trustees, or at other times, as they shall require.

“22. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to keep distinct and perfect records of all the proceedings of the Proprietors and of the Trustees, which he shall bring with him at each stated meeting of the Trustees, and of each meeting of the Proprietors. He shall also carefully file and preserve in proper order, all letters, papers, bills, and documents relative to the affairs of the institution, not belonging to the Treasurer's department.

“23. It shall be the duty of the Librarian to arrange and preserve the books, and pamphlets, and other property, that may be placed in the apartments of the institution, in convenient and proper order; to make out complete catalogues of the same, to see that such of the rules and regulations as relate to the use of the library and reading-room, or other apartments, be observed, and to do such other duty relative to his office as may be directed by the Trustees.

“24. The Librarian may appoint assistants or substitutes for the execution of the duties appertaining to his office, which assistants or substitutes shall be approved, and their compensation determined, by the Trustees.

“25. A Standing Committee of the Trustees, three in number, of which the Librarian shall be one, shall be chosen at each stated meeting of the Trustees, whose duty it shall be more immediately to visit and superintend the institution during

their term, and who shall advise and direct relative to incidental expenses occurring between the meetings of the Trustees, and any other contingencies, including correspondences relative to the institution; a report of all their proceedings to be made at the stated meetings of the Trustees.

“26. It shall be the duty of the Trustees at their stated meetings to consider and direct relative to the purchase of books, and to appoint a committee for that purpose.

“27. No money shall be drawn from the treasury, unless by order of the Trustees or of the Standing Committee, or the major part of them, pursuant to appropriations and subject to such rules and orders as the Trustees may prescribe.

“28. The officers of the institution, except the Librarian and Secretary, are to serve in their respective offices without any pay or emolument or pecuniary advantage whatever; and, after the present year, the compensation of the Librarian and Secretary shall be determined previous to their election.

“29. The offices of Secretary and Librarian shall be united until otherwise ordered by the Trustees or by the Proprietors.”

The rooms, first hired and used for the accommodation of the proprietors, were situated in Scollay's Buildings, between Tremont and Court Streets. This position was found circumscribed and inconvenient, and the necessity of purchasing a suitable site for the institution early became apparent, although the erection of an edifice was postponed. Accordingly, on the 13th of February, 1809, Mr. Lowell was appointed a committee to purchase “the house of Doyle & Bowen, as a temporary accommodation for the Boston Athenæum, at a sum not exceeding ten thousand dollars.” This house was situated in Tremont Street, on the spot where now (1847) stands the Savings Bank. The purchase was effected in the following month, at the price of nine thousand dollars. Possession was taken in the course of the same month; the rooms were suitably pre-

pared, and in July the library was arranged in its new abode.

In August, 1809, the last year's officers were reappointed; and at an adjourned meeting, in September, the vote concerning the appropriation of twenty-five thousand dollars for an edifice was rescinded except as to the portion of it already expended for the purchase of the estate in Tremont Street; and, of the residue, a part was ordered to be funded, and a part was placed at the disposition of the Trustees.

During this official year, measures were taken for procuring a Catalogue of the Library, and one was made by the Rev. Joseph McKean;* but, beyond the management of the prudential concerns of the institution, nothing was attempted. The year was marked, however, by one event, which had no inconsiderable effect in adding to the dignity and usefulness of the Athenæum. John Quincy Adams, being about to embark on his mission to Russia, deposited in its rooms, for the use of the proprietors, his own library, amounting to five thousand four hundred and fifty volumes, thus at once doubling the number of books in the collection; for in November, 1809, the volumes belonging to the institution are stated to be only five thousand seven hundred and fifty. Here it remained for about thirteen years, till the Athenæum was removed to Pearl

* This Catalogue, in which the titles are distributed into fifteen classes (the last containing Tracts), was printed, making an octavo volume of 267 pages. It was preceded by the following advertisement, instead of a title-page:

"Large additions have been made to the Library since these sheets were struck off, and therefore this Catalogue is incomplete. A few copies have been put together in this form for use in the rooms. The Catalogue, when completed with an appendix, index, and preface, will be published and sold."

Successive committees were appointed to write the preface, but this seems never to have been done, nor the Catalogue ever to have been published. Several interleaved copies of it continued to be used in the Library till the publication of a larger Catalogue in 1827, in which, however, the Tracts are not embraced.

Street, the proprietors causing it to be insured for five thousand dollars.

In August, 1810, the same officers were chosen for the fourth time, and a vote was passed by the proprietors, requesting the Trustees to cause their books to be insured. The Trustees, accordingly, at their next meeting, authorized an insurance of fifteen thousand dollars.

At the annual meeting of the proprietors, on the 10th of August, 1811, John Lowell resigned the office of Treasurer, and Joseph Tilden was appointed in his place; and, in consequence of other resignations, new members were chosen into the board of Trustees.* On the 7th of November following, at an adjourned meeting of the proprietors, the accounts of the former Treasurer were satisfactorily adjusted, and the property of the institution was transferred to his successor. An investigation was now made into its financial state. It was found, that a large sum of money was due to it, and that it was likely to suffer from the insolvency of some of the original subscribers, and from the delinquency of others. An urgent necessity being apparent, that efficient measures should be taken to collect the debts, and to place the funds in a safe and productive state, the Treasurer was instructed to enforce the payment of these debts where it was practicable, to discharge such subscribers as were unable to pay the remaining instalments of their original subscription (they releasing to the institution the amount they had already paid), and, with respect to such subscribers as had paid no part of their subscription, to strike their names from the list, and endeavour to substitute other subscribers.

* Officers chosen in 1811, — *President*, Theophilus Parsons; — *Vice-President*, John Davis; — *Treasurer*, Joseph Tilden; — *Secretary and Librarian*, William S. Shaw; — *Trustees*, Peter Oxenbridge Thacher, Robert Hallowell Gardiner, Joseph Stevens Buckminster, Harrison Gray Otis, James Perkins, Samuel Dexter, Richard Sullivan, John Lowell.

The committee for examining the Treasurer's accounts reported the estimate of the property of the institution to be \$38,779·53, according to the following schedule :

Real estate on Tremont Street, at cost, . .	\$10,070·18
Bank stock,	9,867·75
Notes of hand and other debts (bad debts deducted),	6,100
Philosophical apparatus,	1,000
Books, purchased, not including donations,	11,741·60
	<hr/>
	\$38,779·53

The proprietors then appointed a committee for the purpose of filling up the list of subscribers to the original number, and of procuring annual subscribers. The annual subscription was now raised by the Trustees to twelve dollars, and any subscriber paying fifteen dollars might have a proprietor's privilege of introducing other persons.

In January, 1812, Obadiah Rich offered to deposit in the Athenæum a considerable collection of objects in the department of Natural History; and also to give his personal attention to the formation of a Cabinet of Natural History. The offer appearing to the Trustees favorable to the cultivation of a branch of science, the promotion of which was among the earliest and most cherished objects of the Athenæum, they immediately appropriated a place for such a cabinet, took measures to provide cases for articles which might be deposited or given, requested Mr. Rich to undertake its superintendence, authorized an expenditure of two hundred dollars for the requisite preparations, and appointed a committee who, in concurrence with Mr. Rich, were to form regulations relative to the cabinet, and to address the public on the subject of contributions.

At the annual meeting of the proprietors, held by ad-

jourment, in October, the officers of the preceding year were reëlected.

This was the first year of the war with Great Britain ; and the dangers and embarrassment, into which all the business of the United States was thrown by that event, affected also the proceedings of the Trustees. By them nothing seems to have been done or attempted during the whole official year. Of six established meetings in succession, it appears by the records, that only at one could a quorum be assembled. The superintendence of the affairs of the institution devolved almost wholly upon the Secretary, William S. Shaw, who was most zealously devoted to its interests.

The proprietors at their annual meeting in August, 1813, reëlected the same officers, except that the vacancy, occasioned by the death of Mr. Buckminster, was now filled.* In February and March, 1814, the proceedings of the Trustees indicate a revived activity. About this time, from the limited state of the funds, their decrease from the first subscription, and the impossibility, under the general embarrassment of the period, of obtaining additional subscriptions, the Trustees began to perceive that the objects embraced by the original plan of the Athenæum were too great for their means, and too numerous to be included within the sphere of one institution ; they therefore appointed a committee to collect all the books and apparatus they had purchased of the Society for Cultivating Philosophical Knowledge, and to make sale of the same, as to them might seem expedient.

* Officers elected in 1813, — *President*, Theophilus Parsons ; — *Vice-President*, John Davis ; — *Treasurer*, Joseph Tilden ; — *Secretary and Librarian*, William S. Shaw ; — *Trustees*, Peter O. Thacher, Robert H. Gardiner, Harrison G. Otis, James Perkins, Richard Sullivan, John Lowell, Samuel Dexter, Josiah Quincy.

A committee, which had been appointed for examining the library, now reported, that, exclusive of the books deposited by Mr. Adams and by the Agricultural Society, it contained *eight thousand two hundred and nine volumes*, generally in good preservation. They complained, however, of flagrant mutilations of volumes by cutting out engravings, of the incompleteness and inaccuracy of the Catalogue of the library, and of the dilapidations resulting from the free access of boys to the reading-rooms; and they suggested remedies. In conclusion, they expressed their surprise at the number of volumes in the library, notwithstanding the appropriation for its increase from the funds of the corporation had been so small; and also at the considerable proportion of valuable works in the different branches of literature and science, "some of them being rare and many of them splendid." "Such a collection," they say, "of the French literary and philosophical journals, of political and periodical publications, and especially of works relating to our own country, are not to be found elsewhere in the United States." They add, that "to the exertions of the Librarian [William Smith Shaw] are in a great measure owing the great value and flourishing state of the institution." By way of detecting past and preventing future mutilation and abstraction of the books, they recommended pasting in every book an engraving of the name of the Boston Athenæum, with the device on the seal; advertising such as were missing, with the offer of a reward for the recovery of them; a penalty for taking away books; the exclusion of all boys under fifteen years of age, except in the presence of a parent or guardian; and publishing, annually, a list of all donations.

At the annual meeting of the proprietors, in August, 1814, on the resignation of Theophilus Parsons, Judge Davis was chosen President, and, in his stead, John Lowell,

Vice-President; the other officers were reëlected, and John Richards was appointed Trustee in place of Mr. Lowell.*

At the annual meeting, in August, 1815, the same officers were re-chosen; but, at that of August, 1816, in consequence of the resignation, by John Davis, Joseph Tilden, and Samuel Dexter, of their respective offices, John Lowell was chosen President; Josiah Quincy, Vice-President; Nathan Appleton, Treasurer; and John Davis and Joseph Tilden were made Trustees, to fill the consequent vacancies.†

During the two preceding years and the next following, the history of the Athenæum was not marked by any important measures of the Trustees. The aspect of the times, during the war with Great Britain, was gloomy and discouraging, and no present prospect of increasing the funds of the institution appeared. At this period, while men's minds were absorbed by that war and its consequences, the efficiency of the Athenæum, and its very existence, seem to have been in a manner identified with William S. Shaw. He held the offices both of Secretary and Librarian, and occupied himself almost exclusively in collecting rare books, pamphlets, coins, and interesting relics of antiquity, and, by purchase or solicitation, bringing them under its roof. All felt the importance of his services; and, while his zeal and activity in behalf of the Athenæum were undiminished, both the Proprietors and the Trustees seem to have extended to

* Officers elected in 1814, — *President*, John Davis; — *Vice-President*, John Lowell; — *Treasurer*, Joseph Tilden; — *Secretary and Librarian*, William S. Shaw; — *Trustees*, Robert H. Gardiner, Peter O. Thacher, Harrison G. Otis, James Perkins, Samuel Dexter, Richard Sullivan, Josiah Quincy, John Richards.

† Officers elected in 1816, — *President*, John Lowell; — *Vice-President*, Josiah Quincy; — *Treasurer*, Nathan Appleton; — *Secretary and Librarian*, William S. Shaw; — *Trustees*, John Davis, Harrison G. Otis, Richard Sullivan, Peter O. Thacher, James Perkins, Joseph Tilden, John Richards, Robert H. Gardiner.

him a greater confidence in respect to his discharge of the formal and mechanical part of his duties, than the state of his general health and temperament justified. During these years, the records of the Trustees appear to have been negligently kept, and their meetings not regularly entered or authenticated.

The Proprietors were awakened from this state of inactivity and inattention, by a special meeting called by the authority of the President, on the 20th of January, 1818; when it appeared, that no annual meeting had been held in August, 1817, conformably to the by-laws of the institution and the provisions of the charter, and that the tenure, by which the officers held their respective places, had terminated with the year after their election. To remedy this difficulty, it was voted, that the by-laws should be so altered as to make the term of future officers to continue "until others were chosen in their stead." A new article was adopted, providing that meetings of the proprietors might be called by the President, or, in the case of his absence or death, by the Vice-President, or, in like case as to him, by any two of the Trustees, and that at such meetings the proprietors should have power to proceed to the election of officers or the transaction of other business, "as if the meeting had been held pursuant to the by-laws at the times fixed and appointed for such meetings." By a second article, a Sub-Librarian was to be appointed with power, in the absence of the Librarian, to perform all the duties of the Librarian, and also such other duties as the Trustees might assign him.

It was made the duty of the Sub-Librarian to procure the minutes of the Trustees and of the Proprietors, to cause the same to be regularly entered upon the records, and also to execute the duties of the Secretary in the absence of that officer. A vote was passed, declaring that the

officers chosen at this meeting should hold their offices until the first Monday in January, 1818, and that thenceforth the annual meeting of the Proprietors should be on that day of the year.

At the election which then ensued, all the late officers were reëlected ; and Mr. Lowell, President of the institution, was appointed to apply to the legislature of Massachusetts, for a resolve ratifying these proceedings of the proprietors. In conformity with the new law, Micah W. Hill was chosen Sub-Librarian.

CHAPTER III.

REVIVAL OF THE INSTITUTION UNDER THE VIGOROUS ADMINISTRATION OF JOHN LOWELL—MEASURES ADOPTED FOR OBTAINING A NEW BUILDING—DIFFICULTIES IN THE WAY OF SUCCESS—RELIEVED BY THE LIBERALITY OF JAMES PERKINS—THE OFFER OF HIS MANSION-HOUSE, IN PEARL STREET—THE PRINCIPLES OF THAT OFFER—ITS ACCEPTANCE AND THE REMOVAL OF THE INSTITUTION—THE DEATH AND CHARACTER OF THIS BENEFACITOR.

THE return of peace, and of consequent confidence and enterprise, infused a new spirit of efficiency into the management of the institution, and this period constitutes an eventful era in its history. Henceforth, the records of the meetings both of the Proprietors and of the Trustees were regularly kept and authenticated, and a vivid interest in its progress began to be created. The legislature of Massachusetts, on the 21st of January, 1818, passed the resolve, sanctioning the doings of the proprietors, which Mr. Lowell had been appointed to solicit; and the Trustees, in conformity with the spirit by which the board was now actuated, at their first meeting, in February ensuing, appointed a committee to confer with Mr. Shaw on the subject of coins and medals, and to ascertain what had been presented to the proprietors, and what were only deposited in the Athenæum by himself or others, in order to their arrangement and preservation. Measures were also taken to ascertain, by a conference with him, “the state of the valuable pamphlets, from time to time deposited in the Athenæum by the indefatigable care and attention of Mr. Shaw,” the object being to have those which were the property of the

Athenæum distinguished and kept separate from those claimed by him. Votes were passed, directing inquiry into the state of the late donations and deposits of books,—into the expediency of continuing to receive such temporary deposits,—into the connection which the Athenæum held with the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and with the Massachusetts Agricultural Society, that such conditions might be made as to render it mutually beneficial,—and into the propriety of selling or exchanging duplicate books. The regular receipt of English, French, and American journals of science and literature was provided for, and attention was given to the state of the Catalogue.

At this meeting, also, a vote was passed, authorizing the President to issue to Dr. Kirkland a certificate of a share in the Athenæum, in consideration of the great services rendered by him to the institution. Several other votes tending to the improvement, enlargement, and increased usefulness of the Athenæum, indicated a settled intention to give it a fresh impulse and a renewed activity. Its privileges were now extended gratuitously to the consuls of foreign nations, when not natives of the United States.

At a meeting in March ensuing, the Trustees took measures towards erecting a building on the land they owned in Tremont Street, appointing a committee to procure a plan, and to consider the best mode of effecting subscriptions, or of procuring other means, for its execution.

Great difficulties were found in bringing Mr. Shaw to a settlement, partly from the state of his health, and partly from his habitual dilatoriness in relation to pecuniary concerns. There was in his temperament, united to a regardlessness of his own interests, a love of ease, which nothing could awaken to activity, but the desire to collect books, pamphlets, and articles useful and desirable for the Athenæum, which he continued unwearied in obtaining and

adding to its stores, with little apparent solicitude that what was bought with his own funds should be discriminated from what was derived from the bounty of others. There was in Mr. Shaw nothing of vain-glory, and, of all men, he was the last to desire to appropriate to himself other men's benefactions; but, through habit, his happiness becoming inseparably united with the Athenæum, his only thought was for its success. Of fame, or of pecuniary consequences to himself, he was equally regardless. At the meeting of the Trustees in April, a committee was appointed to receive and examine his accounts against the institution. The injunction to obtain a settlement with him, with full authority to allow any balance due to him, was repeated at the meetings in April, May, and July; but the year passed away without success.

Mr. Shaw having thus, for more than ten years, been in the habit of receiving books, coins, and medals, by donation or by purchasing them with his own money, and having cast the whole into the common stock, he found the attempt, to him, hopeless, and shrunk from the labor and exertion necessary, to discriminate and state them; and he delayed to respond to all solicitations on the subject. On the other hand, the Trustees, who daily witnessed the zeal and diligence with which he pursued every object he deemed important to be acquired, either by solicitation or purchase, were unwilling to take measures that might possibly offend him, and deprive the Athenæum of his disinterested efforts. They thought it better to acquiesce in the consequences of his natural temperament, than to do any thing which should separate the most efficient founder and best patron of the institution from it, in point either of feeling or exertion. And, after repeated trials, they abandoned the endeavour, which the increasing constitutional infirmities of Mr. Shaw rendered daily more and more hopeless of success.

Although no final settlement was ever obtained from him, the embarrassments arising from the reciprocal claims of his estate and the Athenæum were honorably relieved, as will hereafter be stated, by the generosity of his brother-in-law and administrator, the Rev. Mr. Felt.

The American Academy of Arts and Sciences having, in April, 1817, deposited its library in one of the principal chambers of the Athenæum, a formal agreement was concluded in May, 1818, that it should remain there, under the general care of the officers of the Athenæum, but subject to the supervision of the Librarian of the Academy. It was agreed that the subscribers to the Athenæum should have the use of the books, which, however, were not to be taken out of the room except by members of the Academy. The latter were to have free access to the library, and liberty to hold there the meetings of the Academy. For these privileges, the Academy was to pay fifty dollars a year to the Athenæum, the proprietors of which were not to be responsible for any loss of the books, or damage done to them.

At the annual meeting of the proprietors in January, 1819, the officers of the preceding year were reëlected, except that David Sears was chosen Trustee in the place of Mr. Gardiner, who had resigned.*

The contracted limits of the estate on Tremont Street began about this time to create a repugnance in many interested in the institution to building an edifice for its accommodation in that place; and the proprietors, at a meeting on the 18th of January, appointed John Lowell, Josiah Quincy, and John Richards, a committee to take into

* Officers elected in 1819,—*President*, John Lowell;—*Vice-President*, Josiah Quincy;—*Treasurer*, Nathan Appleton;—*Secretary and Librarian*, William S. Shaw;—*Assistant Librarian*, Micah W. Hill;—*Trustees*, John Davis, Harrison G. Otis, Richard Sullivan, John Richards, James Perkins, Peter O. Thacher, Joseph Tilden, David Sears.

consideration the purchase of another site, to ascertain the terms on which it could be obtained, with the practicability of procuring a new subscription sufficient for such purchase, and to call a meeting on the subject, whenever they were prepared to report.

In January, 1819, at a meeting of the Trustees, a previously appointed committee reported on the state of the Library, that it was "in perfect order," and that the affairs of the corporation had been satisfactorily conducted. They stated, that the whole number of volumes, belonging to the Athenæum, was *eleven thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight*, besides seven thousand and five hundred volumes deposited by the American Academy and by individuals; that alcove catalogues had been prepared, which greatly facilitated the examination of the Library; that the resort of citizens and strangers to the Athenæum was never greater; that the number of annual subscribers, which, in 1816, was only fifteen, now amounted to forty-five; that numerous donations had been made to the Library;—all indicating a growing interest in the institution, and its popularity.

At the suggestion of this committee, the Trustees now took measures "to collect and arrange the coins and medals," and also "to communicate to the public information of the value of the Library in its various departments of literature, science, and the arts." "Such communications," said the committee, "would tend to keep alive the public attention, and to animate the friends of the Athenæum to add to the value of this great treasure of ancient and modern learning. They may tend likewise to dispose the minds of the community to assist in erecting a building for the accommodation of the institution in its various departments, according to the plan of the original founders." "A new one is required for the safe keeping and for the

due exhibition of the books, charts, engravings, &c.; for the convenience of the proprietors, subscribers, and numerous visitors; and as a monument of the taste and munificence of a town, which has become, by the spirit of its citizens, the favorite residence of learning, freedom, and benevolence."

In October, the Standing Committee were authorized to admit, at their discretion, any of the regular clergy of Boston to the privileges of the Athenæum.

At the annual meeting, in 1820, Mr. Lowell having resigned the presidency, a new arrangement of the officers took place, but the same individuals were retained in the board.*

The committee on the state of the institution reported, that it was highly satisfactory; that the interest of the public and the munificence of individuals had evidently increased; that the whole number of volumes belonging to the Athenæum now amounted to *twelve thousand six hundred and forty-seven*; that the whole number of volumes collected under its roof, available for the use of the proprietors and subscribers, was nearly *twenty thousand*; and that more than four hundred volumes had been added to the Library, by the liberal donations of numerous individuals.

On the 21st of January, 1820, the legislature of the State of New York passed an act authorizing the Secretary of State to cause "to be delivered to the Athenæum of the town of Boston, a copy of the laws of this State heretofore passed," and also "a copy of the laws *to be hereafter*

* Officers elected in 1820, — *President*, Josiah Quincy; — *Vice-President*, James Perkins; — *Treasurer*, Nathan Appleton; — *Secretary and Librarian*, William S. Shaw; — *Assistant Librarian*, Micah W. Hill; — *Trustees*, John Davis, John Lowell, Harrison G. Otis, Richard Sullivan, John Richards, Peter O. Thacher, Joseph Tilden, David Sears.

passed at each succeeding session of the legislature." This event called forth an appropriate acknowledgment from the Trustees at the time, and deserves to be specially commemorated for the wisdom of the example it affords to other public bodies, in seeking appropriate places of deposit for a continuous series of documents, which are all-important as elements of history, but can hardly be preserved complete, except in the custody of public institutions.

At the annual meeting in January, 1821, no other change took place in the board of Trustees, except that, on the resignation of James Perkins, Theodore Lyman, Jr. was elected to supply the vacancy.* At this meeting, the Trustees were authorized to appoint a committee, consisting of six of the Trustees and six of the Proprietors, for the purpose of examining the Library and the state of the institution, in the month of December annually, and to make a report to the proprietors in the January ensuing.

During this and the preceding year, no business had been transacted, except such as was incidental to the general care of the property of the institution. The inadequacy of its resources to its wants, the narrow limits of its house in Tremont Street, and the impracticability of erecting any satisfactory edifice on the scanty land there belonging to it, were universally felt and lamented by the proprietors; but the attempt to obtain funds for remedying the evil seemed quite hopeless. In December of this year, relief came in a way wholly unanticipated. About the middle of the month, a confidential communication was made to the President of the institution by John Lowell, who stated

* Officers elected in 1821, — *President*, Josiah Quincy; — *Vice-President*, John Richards; — *Treasurer*, Nathan Appleton; — *Secretary and Librarian*, William S. Shaw; — *Assistant Librarian*, Joseph Backus; — *Trustees*, John Davis, Harrison G. Otis, Richard Sullivan, Peter O. Thacher, Joseph Tilden, David Sears, John Lowell, Theodore Lyman, Jr.

that a gentleman, with a liberality as enlarged as his fortune was ample, was prepared to make a donation to the institution of a mansion-house, with land adjoining, adequate to all the purposes of the Athenæum, provided the site were acceptable to the proprietors, and the terms on which the grant would be made should be acceded to by them. A meeting of the Trustees was, in consequence, immediately called by the President, on the 20th of December, 1821; and by their vote a special meeting of the proprietors was summoned to be held on the 26th, "to consider whether the Trustees shall be authorized to erect a new edifice on the site now owned by the proprietors, or to sell or exchange the same, and to purchase or procure any other site or edifice within the town;" and, in the mean time, three of the Trustees were appointed a committee, Mr. Lowell being chairman, "to solicit subscriptions for these purposes."

The proprietors, at the meeting thus called, unanimously "authorized and requested the Trustees to endeavour to make the purchase referred to by Mr. Lowell, in his verbal communication, if they are satisfied that the terms mentioned by him can be obtained;" and further authorized them "to sell or mortgage the estate of the corporation, and to pledge any part of its funds, to procure the purchase money; and also to sell any new shares in the corporation, not exceeding one hundred." In the terms of the original subscription, made in 1807, it was specifically stated, as an article of compact, that *the number of shares should not exceed one hundred and fifty*. Mr. Lowell, however, in the year 1818, during his presidency, anticipating the necessity of soon enlarging the number of proprietors, had taken the precaution to submit to every individual proprietor a writing, by which it was agreed that, for the purpose of erecting a new and more commodious edifice, the Trustees might increase the number of shares to an amount not exceeding one hun-

dred and fifty. To this agreement, which is now extant in the archives of the Athenæum, the signatures of the owners of one hundred and seventeen shares were affixed; which, there being no objection to the measure, were deemed a sufficient authority for passing the above-mentioned vote by the proprietors present.

The Trustees, at a meeting holden the same day, appointed a committee to carry into effect the vote of the proprietors. For some little time, the importance of purchasing an estate adjoining that which had been so generously given, and the delays incident to the examination of titles and adjusting the terms of the donation, postponed a communication to the proprietors of its exact nature and of the name of the donor. It was soon, however, announced, that the Athenæum was indebted for the munificent gift of his mansion-house, in Pearl-Street, valued in the Treasurer's books at the sum of twenty thousand dollars, to James Perkins, Esq. His motives, as expressed in the deed of conveyance, were, "a consideration of the importance of the diffusion of knowledge to the liberty and happiness of any community, and of the beneficial effects of public libraries and reading-rooms to promote this important end," and, also, "a special regard to the Boston Athenæum, which was founded, and has been hitherto supported, on these principles;" and the only conditions of a general nature inserted in the instrument were, that "no part of the estate herein conveyed shall ever hereafter be used as a tavern, hotel, boarding-house, livery stable, or for any other public use, except for a literary institution; it not being my intention to preclude the use of it as a private dwelling-house, though it is my wish and expectation, in making the grant, that it may be always improved for public literary purposes; but it is not my wish to bind the corporation, in all future times, to retain that estate for the purposes of an Athenæum,

whenever three fourths of the proprietors may think it for the interest of the institution to place it in some other situation."

The liberality of the terms, as well as the amount of the benefaction, is characteristic of the donor. James Perkins had been for several years a Trustee and Vice-President of the Athenæum;—he had perceived its wants, and was disposed, from personal feeling as well as on general grounds, to advance its interests. His donation was an era in the progress of the institution, and gave a decisive stimulus to its friends and the community in aiding its advancement. While his name was concealed from the public, for the reasons above alluded to, the desire of discovering the secret was intense; and the Trustees passed a vote, that "the committee, with Mr. Lowell, be authorized to solicit the disclosure of the means by which the estate proposed to be conveyed to the Athenæum has been offered, with permission to give to the public the true state of facts, in order that an act of such unexampled munificence may have its due effect in promoting among our citizens a spirit of emulation, and thus fostering, by the most efficacious means, our public institutions, literary, philosophic, and religious." They also immediately took measures for preparing the estate thus generously given, and the adjoining one, which had been purchased, for the reception of the Library.

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors, in January, 1822, the joint committee of the Trustees and Proprietors made their report upon the condition of the Library and of the institution generally. It had been prepared before they were apprized of the noble gift of James Perkins, and its statements represent the condition of the institution before any effect had been produced by that donation. Concerning the Library, it stated that no loss of books had been sustained during the past year, and that the whole

number belonging to the proprietors amounted to *twelve thousand five hundred and five*, beside duplicates. The committee continued to represent the necessity of new accommodations, the crowded condition of the books, the difficulty of access to them, the importance of resorting to the munificence of individuals, and the discouragement to donations, when, from the contracted condition of the edifice, they were inevitably condemned to obscurity; and they concluded with earnestly recommending to the proprietors the attempt to raise funds either by subscription or by the sale of new shares. The financial condition of the Athenæum, at the end of the year 1821, was stated to be as follows :

In various public stocks, at their cash	
value and in cash,	\$13,470·00
The real estate of the Corporation, at its	
cost,	10,075·18
Books at their actual cost,	15,411·90
	<hr/>
	\$38,957·08

The number of shares was now only one hundred and twenty-four. Such was the unpromising state of the affairs of the institution when the hand of Mr. Perkins was extended to its relief.

At an adjournment of this annual meeting, the former officers were reëlected, and Edward Everett, Francis C. Gray, Amos Lawrence, and Charles Jackson were chosen to supply the places of John Davis, Harrison G. Otis, Richard Sullivan, and John Lowell, who had resigned their seats at the board of Trustees.*

* Officers chosen in 1822, — *President*, Josiah Quincy ; — *Vice-President*, John Richards ; — *Treasurer*, Nathan Appleton ; — *Secretary and Librarian*, William S. Shaw ; — *Assistant Librarian*, Joseph Backus ; — *Trustees*, Peter O. Thacher, Theodore Lyman, Jr., David Sears, Joseph Tilden, Edward Everett, Francis C. Gray, Amos Lawrence, Charles Jackson.

At the same time, the Trustees were authorized, if they deemed that the interests of the institution required it, to put the office of Librarian into commission ; which they did on a communication by the President of a letter from Mr. Shaw, expressing a wish, on account of the state of his health, that such a measure should be adopted. Octavius Pickering was accordingly appointed to take charge of the Library as Commissioner. An entire new code of by-laws, having been prepared by the Trustees and submitted to the Proprietors, was adopted by them in February of this year (1822). An abstract of it is here given, as exhibiting the spirit of the institution at this date.

“RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE BOSTON
ATHENÆUM.

“CHAPTER I.

“MEETINGS, ELECTIONS, AND DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

“§ 1. Annual meetings of the Proprietors to be held on the first Monday of January, at five o'clock, P. M. — 2. Five days' notice of the annual meeting to be given by the Secretary in two Boston newspapers, and also by a printed billet sent to each proprietor. Any meeting may be continued by adjournment, the Secretary giving one day's notice in one newspaper. — 3. Officers to be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting, viz. a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and nine Trustees, (all to be proprietors,) also a Corresponding and Recording Secretary ; to continue in office till a new election, which, if omitted at the annual meeting, may take place at any other legal meeting of the proprietors. — 4. The President, Vice-President, and Treasurer to be *ex officio* members of the board of Trustees, which may appoint a Secretary, but must keep a record of its proceedings. — 5. The President to preside at proprietors' meetings ; or, in his absence, the Vice-President ; or, in his absence, one of the proprietors, specially chosen. —

6. Meetings of the Trustees to be held quarterly on the second Monday of January, April, July, and October, at six o'clock, P. M. Special meetings of the Trustees may be called by the President, Vice-President, or Standing Committee. Three days' notice of all meetings of the Trustees to be given by the Secretary to each member of the board in a printed billet. Five Trustees to be a quorum for business. — 7. The Trustees, at their first meeting in January, or as soon after as may be, to choose, for the year, a Librarian, and, if deemed necessary, a Sub-Librarian; and to fix their compensation. — 8. The Trustees to manage all the affairs of the institution, in a manner not repugnant to the terms of subscription, or to any standing regulation adopted by the proprietors at a regular meeting. Regulations adopted by the Trustees to be in force until they are submitted to the decision of the proprietors at their next meeting. — 9. The Trustees, at their discretion, may call a meeting of the proprietors, to be notified in the same manner as the annual meeting. — 10. The Trustees, at each quarterly meeting, to choose three of their number, as a Standing Committee for the immediate management of the institution, who are to continue in office till a new election (one of them inspecting the Athenæum three times each week), and to report their proceedings at the quarterly meetings. — 11. The Trustees to direct the purchase of books, which they may do by a committee. — 12. The officers, except the Librarian and Sub-Librarian, to serve without pay or emolument.

“CHAPTER II.

“DUTIES OF THE TREASURER.

“§ 13. He is to keep an account of the property, and of all receipts and expenditures; to make a statement of the same to the proprietors at the annual meeting, and to the Trustees whenever they require it; and he is to pay no money but by order of the Trustees, or of the majority of the Standing Committee, acting under such rules as the Trustees may adopt.

"CHAPTER III.

"DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY.

"§ 14. He is to record without delay the proceedings of the Proprietors and of the Trustees, as also the reports made to each body (unless otherwise directed), in separate books, which he is to bring to all meetings. He is to exhibit his record to the Standing Committee as soon as possible after each meeting, and is to preserve on file all letters and documents belonging to his department. — 15. He is to report to the Standing Committee all letters received by him in his official capacity, and all other matters, of his cognizance, relating to the institution. — 16. He is to take receipts for all certificates or tickets, delivered to proprietors or others, in a book for that purpose.

"CHAPTER IV.

"DUTIES OF THE LIBRARIAN AND SUB-LIBRARIAN.

"§ 17. The Librarian is to arrange and preserve the books and other property placed in the rooms, and to make catalogues of them ; to see that the rules of the Library and other rooms are observed ; to do all other official duties assigned by the Trustees ; and to be paid a stated salary determined by them. — 18. He is to report to the Standing Committee all donations, all letters received, and all other matters, of his cognizance, concerning the institution. — 19. He is to report any offence against good order to the Standing Committee, who may suspend the privileges of the offender till the case is submitted to the Trustees at their next meeting. — 20. The Sub-Librarian is charged with all the duties of the Librarian in his absence, or whenever the office is vacant.

"CHAPTER V.

"RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF PROPRIETORS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

"§ 21. Proprietors and life subscribers are to be furnished with sealed certificates of their property, signed by the President and Secretary, in a form to be prescribed by the Trustees.

—22. Proprietors and subscribers are each to be furnished with a ticket, signed by the President or Vice-President, and by the Secretary, in a form to be prescribed by the Trustees. — 23. Each proprietor is entitled to two transferable tickets (besides his own), valid during his proprietorship. — 24. No transfer of a share is valid, till written evidence of it is lodged with the Secretary, the old certificate being first given up, or shown to be lost. For the benefit of the institution, two dollars are to be received by the Secretary for each transfer. — 25. A transfer of a ticket, in order to be valid, must be for not less than a year, and must be recorded by the Secretary in a book for the purpose. — 26. Proprietors and life subscribers may introduce, personally or by writing, any stranger whose home is not within twenty miles of Boston, the name of the stranger and that of the introducer (who is held responsible for the observance of the rules) being entered together in a book for the purpose. Any number of persons, accompanying a proprietor or life subscriber, may be admitted. — 27. Any proprietor or subscriber, injuring the property or breaking the rules, is to be excluded by the Standing Committee till the case is acted upon by the Trustees at their next meeting. — 28. Visitors holding a transferred ticket, and annual subscribers, must sign an engagement not to remove from the rooms, nor to injure, any article of property ; and not to violate any rule, on penalty of the legal forfeitures. — 29. Rights and shares in the institution are indivisible.

“ CHAPTER VI.

“ ADMISSION TO THE ROOMS.

“ § 30. The Trustees may give tickets of admission to persons residing out of Boston, who have made a donation to the amount of fifty dollars. — 31. The Trustees, or a majority of the Standing Committee, may give tickets to the clergy of Boston. — 32. The Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Council, Senate, and House of Representatives ; the Judges of the Supreme Court and of the United States’ Courts ; the Presidents

and Professors of Harvard College and of the Andover Theological Institution; the Presidents of the American Academy, of the Massachusetts Historical, Medical, and Agricultural Societies, of the Salem Athenæum, and of the East India Marine Society, shall be honorary members of the institution. — 33. The Tutors, other officers, and resident graduates of Harvard College and of the Andover Theological Institution may use the library and reading-room.

“CHAPTER VII.

“MISCELLANEOUS ARTICLES.

“§ 34. The rooms are to be kept open every day except Sunday, till 9 o'clock, P. M.; from 6 o'clock, A. M. in June, July and August, and from 8 o'clock, A. M. during the rest of the year. The Trustees may direct them to be kept open at other times. — 35. New books to be kept on the tables long enough for their perusal. — 36. No book or other article to be carried out of the rooms on any pretext. Offenders, if proprietors, forfeit their rights for one year; if annual subscribers, their subscription. — 37. A complete Catalogue of all books and pamphlets to be kept in the rooms. — 38. Conversation in the reading-room not allowed. — 39. Stationery for taking notes to be furnished by the institution. — 40. Any proprietor or subscriber may propose the purchase of any book, in a record-book kept for that purpose. — 41. Donors' names to be inscribed in or upon books given, as the Trustees may direct. — 42. All donations of books or other property to be recorded in a book kept by the Secretary for that purpose, and donations to be published on a tablet suspended in the principal reading-room. — 43. Donations to be applied according to the wish of the donor, if expressed; otherwise at the discretion of the Trustees. — 44. No article, not the property of the Athenæum, to be deposited in the rooms, unless accepted by the Trustees, and at the owner's risk. — 45. Annual subscribers admitted for eighteen dollars, on such conditions as the Trustees may settle. No subscription for less than a year. Subscription

money to be paid to the Librarian, or, in his absence, to the Sub-Librarian, who will account to the Treasurer. — 46. An annual examination of the institution to be made, at least fifteen days before the annual meeting, by a committee, appointed by the Trustees, of six Trustees and six Proprietors, who are to report at the annual meeting on all its concerns except those of the Treasurer's department. — 47. All former by-laws repealed, saving the recovery of penalties incurred under them."

In the month of June, 1822, the books and other property of the institution were removed from the house in Tremont Street to the newly acquired building in Pearl Street. The newspapers and periodical publications were arranged in the reading-room; the scientific journals, and the volumes of newspapers were placed in separate apartments, so as best to facilitate reference; the books were distributed into twelve principal classes, each class occupying one room. Those classes were distributed into as many minor divisions as the subjects rendered necessary, each minor division occupying one case. This arrangement was deemed proper by the Trustees, having reference to permanent utility, notwithstanding that the deficiency of books in many of the classes gave to some of the cases and rooms a naked appearance. Means of ready access to the books was thus furnished to the proprietors and subscribers, and means of ready arrangement in their respective classes as the number of books increased. This, the Trustees confidently anticipated, would amount to eighty or one hundred thousand volumes in the course of the present century.

At the same time, the Trustees took measures to have a new Catalogue of the Library prepared under their superintendence; and to number the rooms, the cases, and the shelves, for facilitating classification and research.

James Perkins did not long survive to witness the estab-

lishment and flourishing of the institution in the new seat which his bounty had provided for it. At his death, which occurred on the first day of August of this year, a meeting of the Trustees was immediately called, and a vote was unanimously passed, expressive of their sorrow at the event, and declaring that "they are deeply impressed with the great and numerous services which that distinguished gentleman and merchant had rendered to the community at large, and, in particular, they shall always remember with peculiar gratitude and delight that act of remarkable munificence to which this institution is indebted for its present spacious and splendid accommodations." Desirous of showing their respect to the memory of Mr. Perkins, they asked permission of the family to be present at his funeral, which they attended. They also appointed a committee to cause a portrait of their benefactor to be copied by Gilbert Stuart, from his original painting in the possession of Mrs. Perkins, for which the sum of three hundred dollars was appropriated.

It appears from the record of a subsequent meeting of the Proprietors, that all these proceedings of the Trustees received their hearty sanction, but that the appropriation for the payment of the artist had become unnecessary, a sum adequate for that object having been readily subscribed by several of the Proprietors.

The gift of Mr. Perkins to the Athenæum was so timely, so munificent, and so decisive in stamping it with the character of a permanent public institution, that his name deserves to be held in honorable association with those of the founders, whose design he did so much to carry out. The events of his life, and the prominent features of his mind, will ever be natural objects of grateful inquiry to the future friends of the Athenæum; and it is deemed no unfitting tribute to his memory, to perpetuate, in this

history, the following obituary notice, which appeared, soon after his death, in one of the public journals of Boston,* and in which his virtues and fortunes are happily and faithfully delineated by one, who was well acquainted with both.

“THE LATE JAMES PERKINS, ESQ.

“The character of Mr. Perkins, whose loss we have just been called to deplore, is too well known to his friends and the community to need an elaborate eulogium. It was, however, so strongly marked with the most valuable qualities, as to demand this tribute of respect from those who survive him. Mr. Perkins was certainly the last man who would himself have wished for posthumous commendation, and there is none whose delicacy would sooner have been alarmed at the proposal of it. We owe it, however, to ourselves, to show that we were not insensible to his worth, and that we are not indifferent to his loss. And while his real and most eloquent eulogy is to be sought in the course of an industrious, honorable, and most useful life, it is due to the virtues he practised, to the example he set, to the noble standard of character on which he acted, not to be entirely silent, now that nothing remains of them but their honored memory.

“Mr. Perkins very early engaged in commercial pursuits. He had received in boyhood, under the care of an excellent mother, the preparatory instruction which might have fitted him for an academical education ; but the approach of the revolutionary war, and the discouraging aspect of the times, dictated the commercial career as the more prudent. It is in the remembrance of his early friends, that Mr. Perkins, while a boy, distinguished himself as the commander of a military company composed of

* The “Boston Daily Advertiser,” for August 6th, 1822.

his playfellows, whose manœuvres attracted the notice of the officers of the British garrison here, for their soldier-like precision ; and it is worthy of remark, that many of the members of this youthful corps became officers of note and merit in the revolutionary war. The inclination of their youthful commander pointed him to the army ; but, being controlled in this by his only surviving parent, he was placed in the counting-house of the Messrs. Shattuck. He gave an early and striking indication of his aptitude for commercial pursuits by the zeal with which he engaged, of his own motion, in the study of the method of double entry (then but little known in this country), which had accidentally attracted his notice, and which, though but an apprentice, he introduced, at his own request, into the books of the house in which he was placed. Scarcely was he of age when he established himself in business in St. Domingo, toward the close of the revolutionary war, where he remained till the troubles in that colony began. Having been forced to escape in the night from the country-house of the Marquis de Rouvray, in whose family he was an inmate, he took refuge at Fort Dauphin, and shortly returned to his native town. It deserves, perhaps, to be particularized, as a mark of the promptness of commercial enterprise which distinguished him, that he was on board and intrusted with the *Charlotte*, which formed the *leading case* in the captures made at that time by the British government, and which was tried and condemned at Antigua, for pursuing in time of war a colonial trade not lawful in peace.

Returned to Boston, and united in a commercial house with his brother, Mr. Thomas H. Perkins, now the senior surviving partner, Mr. Perkins engaged extensively in the trade to the North-west coast and to Canton. Of the former trade, well known to have been almost exclusively in the hands of the merchants of the Northern and Middle

States of America, as great a portion was probably conducted by the Messrs. Perkins, as by any other house ; and it may perhaps be safely stated, that, down to the present day, no private commercial house in the world has been more extensively engaged in the trade to Canton. In the duties devolving upon the house by these extensive transactions, Mr. Perkins ever bore a full share, and was distinguished at once for the large scale on which his operations were planned, and for the remarkable and ever anxious precision with which he superintended their smallest details. To go more minutely into particulars, though it would furnish many anecdotes of interest to his friends, and innumerable proofs of his various excellent qualities, would exceed the limits of a notice like the present.

“ It is unnecessary to say, that the point of view in which Mr. Perkins’s character ought to be surveyed, is that of an upright merchant. This, in our country, is certainly the character of greatest importance in the community. Divested by our political institutions of an hereditary nobility, in which fortunes are transmitted by descent, it unavoidably follows that the chief influence in society is thrown into the hands of those whose pursuits alone admit of the accumulation of ample fortunes. The merchant’s profession, as exhibited in the life of Mr. Perkins, was well worthy of the weight which the constitution of society gives it among us, and rose very far above a mere grasping zeal for the accumulation of money. In the long course of transactions, as numerous and as various as an individual can easily be connected with, — in enterprises extending over the habitable globe, employing thousands of agents, constantly involving fortunes in their result, and requiring, on many occasions necessarily incident to business of this extent, no secondary degree of firmness and courage, and, above all, in the temptation, which must so often present itself, to take

short roads to wealth, — not a shadow of suspicion of any thing derogatory to the highest and purest sense of honor and conscience ever attached to his conduct ; and he may be quoted as one of the few, who pass through life without spot or blemish. The character of such a man ought to be held up for imitation. The future condition of our country will depend not a little on the qualities of character which predominate in the wealthiest portion of society. Every instance of a life like Mr. Perkins's is a pledge of its prosperity and honor ; and a pledge that ought to be cherished with tenderness and zeal in times like these, when suspicions are allowed to attach to the merchant's character, which, whether true or false, convey equal reproach.

“The ample fortune, which Mr. Perkins acquired in this honorable manner, was appropriated to ends as honorable ; to promoting the best interests of society. His zeal in serving his friends was, in many instances, carried even to an extreme ; and, while his efforts of this kind were such as few would make, he was outdone by none in his readiness for every call of judicious charity. His liberal donations to the General Hospital, and to the Theological School of Cambridge University, are well known ; and his late munificent gift to the Athenæum, (a gift which cannot be estimated at less than \$18,000), is fresh in the public recollection. In addition to these acts of liberality, it is understood that Mr. Perkins has made testamentary provision for a donation of twenty thousand dollars to the University at Cambridge. To enumerate every instance of distinguished liberality on his part, would be to repeat the list of calls on the affluent and generous in our community, which is certainly among those least remarkable for the rarity of these calls.

“The natural disposition of Mr. Perkins was retired and unambitious. He studiously avoided every call of political

life ; and, while the general esteem in which he was held by the public, and his well known integrity and consistency as a politician, would have made his access easy to the highest political offices in the gift of his fellow-citizens, a natural reserve of feeling led him to keep entirely aloof. He was, however, ready on all occasions, by every species of honorable and active exertion, to contribute to the influence of what he esteemed sound political views ; and was surpassed by few, if any, in weight of political character, in the respectable circle in which he moved.

“ Though brought up as a merchant, and at all times actively engaged in the duties of his calling, Mr. Perkins had a strong taste for reading, and possessed a highly matured and well-informed mind. He formed, in early life, a very familiar acquaintance with polite literature, particularly the English poets, and continued to devote his leisure to the perusal of the standard writers of the English and French languages. It was in this manner, that his taste led him to employ the time too often wasted by merchants in the gossip of the exchange and the insurance offices. The consequences of his extensive reading were an unusually mature and judicious style of writing ; and there are few, even of those who are led more directly by profession to cultivate the art of writing, who were able to express themselves with greater strength, clearness, and ease.

“ Mr. Perkins was, in fine, a man of uncommon force and elevation of mind. The least estimable portion of his character was known to those who knew him only as a merchant, high and honorable as he was in this capacity. His temper and taste were retired and domestic ; his virtues were those of the fireside ; and his whole character was of that gentleness and simplicity which fit a man rather for social, friendly, and family enjoyment, than for the bustle of the world. A slender constitution, requiring unremitted

care, conspired in this respect with his feelings, and led him to seek his pleasures more exclusively at home, than his liberal and enlarged spirit might otherwise have dictated. It is those only who knew him in this sphere and in the tender relations of domestic life, that are able fully to bear witness how good and excellent a man is taken from us.

“Though never unprepared for that event which his infirm health rendered in some degree always impending, Mr. Perkins’s decease was at last sudden, and found every one but himself unprepared for the event. During the two or three days that he survived the attack which proved fatal, — in the certainty of impending dissolution, and under the application of painful remedies, — he retained, undisturbed, the perfect possession of his reason, and an unclouded composure of spirits. Having exhibited in his life the best fruits of religious principles, the close of his life was peaceful and tranquil. No one had more to make him love and cling to life, — wealth and respect abroad, and happiness at home. But he resigned it all without a sigh or murmur ; and has left few behind who could, in the hour of extreme trial, appeal more securely to ‘the testimony of an approving conscience.’ ”

CHAPTER IV.

A COLLECTION OF PAINTINGS AND SCULPTURE COMMENCED — MEASURES FOR ESTABLISHING ANNUAL COURSES OF LECTURES — UNION OF KING'S CHAPEL LIBRARY AND THE THEOLOGICAL LIBRARY WITH THE ATHENÆUM — A PORTION OF THE LIBRARY PERMITTED TO BE CIRCULATED — THE SCIENTIFIC LIBRARY AND THE BOSTON MEDICAL LIBRARY UNITED WITH THE ATHENÆUM — PLAN FOR ERECTING A BUILDING FOR THE EXHIBITION OF WORKS OF ART, AND FOR A LECTURE-ROOM — DIFFICULTIES ATTENDING ITS EXECUTION — LIBERAL OFFERS OF THOMAS HANDASYD PERKINS AND JAMES PERKINS — CONSEQUENT GREAT ENLARGEMENT OF THE FUNDS OF THE INSTITUTION.

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors, in January, 1823, great changes were made in the board of Trustees, partly in consequence of resignations, and partly from a diversity of views in relation to the conduct of the institution.*

The portrait of James Perkins, "painted by Stuart in his best manner," having been hung in one of the rooms of the Athenæum, and the institution being now in possession, through the liberality of Mr. Augustus Thorndike, of a truly valuable collection of casts of the most celebrated statues of antiquity, these were placed, by the vote of the Trustees, in the same room with the portrait of Mr. Perkins. This was the commencement of that large collection of works of art, which now constitutes one of the most interesting departments of the Athenæum.

* Officers elected in 1823. — *President*, Josiah Quincy; — *Vice-President*, Peter O. Thacher; — *Treasurer*, Nathan Appleton; — *Secretary*, William S. Shaw; — *Trustees*, Theodore Lyman, Jr., Edward Everett, Francis C. Gray, Amos Lawrence, Henry Codman, Samuel Swett, William Sturgis, Thomas Wigglesworth, George Ticknor; — *Assistant Librarian*, Joseph Backus.

At this meeting, the Proprietors sanctioned the sale of the estate in Tremont Street, for nine thousand dollars.

A project about this time began to be agitated of attaching a room to the Athenæum, to be used for public lectures under the auspices of the institution; and a committee was appointed to take the subject into consideration, and to report the cost of a room, and the principles on which a subscription at large might be effected for that object. Of this committee, John Lowell was appointed chairman.

At a meeting of the Proprietors in the ensuing February, the committee reported in favor of making provision for annual courses of lectures on various branches of literature and science, in connection with the Athenæum; but, as no part of the funds of the corporation could be applied to that object, if a subscription could be obtained for the erection of a suitable building, in their opinion it would be proper and for the interest of the Athenæum to give a part of its land for such an edifice, the fee simple to belong to the corporation, and to be held in trust for the purposes expressed. The terms of the subscription having been proposed and adopted, and also measures to carry the plan into effect, at a meeting of the Proprietors, in the following month of May, a subscription was reported to have been obtained to the amount of four thousand three hundred dollars; whereupon the Treasurer of the Athenæum was instructed to collect the sums subscribed, and a committee was chosen to superintend the erection of the edifice.*

This committee consisted of three persons, Theodore Ly-

* By the terms, a subscription of \$300 gave a title to a full share in the Athenæum; a subscription of \$100 procured the privileges of a life-subscriber, and, if \$200 more should be paid before April 1st, 1828, a full share would be secured. When the sum of \$4000 should be obtained, a committee was to proceed, first, to erect the building, and then to purchase chemical and philosophical

man, Jr., on the part of the Trustees ; on the part of the Proprietors, Henry S. Dearborn ; and, on the part of the new subscribers, Lewis Tappan. On the 9th of June they reported to the Proprietors, that the sum already subscribed was not in their opinion sufficient to erect a building suitable for the purpose, and that they deemed it advisable a further sum should be obtained by way of loan. To this measure the Proprietors were not prepared to accede ; they therefore recommitted the whole subject to the former committee on subscriptions, of which Mr. Lowell was chairman.

In the summer of this year, the Library of King's Chapel, and the Theological Library, belonging to the Boston Association of Ministers, were deposited in the Athenæum ;

apparatus, applying whatever surplus there might be to the enlargement of the Library.

The following is a copy of the subscription list, as afterwards increased to \$4,600, the greater part of which consisted of *donations* in money, without regard to the acquisition of shares.

Nathaniel Amory	\$ 50	William Phillips	\$ 200
Nathan Appleton	50	William Pratt	50
Charles Barnard	50	William Prescott	50
Joseph P. Bradlee	50	William H. Prescott	50
Josiah Bradlee	50	Josiah Quincy	50
Peter C. Brooks	300	John Randall	100
John Bryant	50	Henry Rice	50
Benjamin Bussey	50	John Richards	50
Charles R. Codman	50	Jeffery Richardson	50
Henry A. S. Dearborn	25	David Sears	100
John Dorr	300	George C. Shattuck	50
Ebenezer Francis	50	Robert G. Shaw	50
Francis C. Gray	50	William Sturgis	50
John C. Gray	50	Samuel Swett	50
Gardiner Greene	100	Charles Tappan	100
David Henshaw	50	John Tappan	100
Henderson Inches	50	Lewis Tappan	50
Patrick T. Jackson	100	Israel Thorndike	300
Amos Lawrence	50	George Ticknor	50
Edward J. Lowell	100	Richard D. Tucker	50
John Lowell	200	Thomas B. Wales	300
Theodore Lyman, Jr.	50	Thomas W. Ward	50
John Maclean	100	Samuel Whitwell, Jr.	50
Isaac Mansfield	100	Thomas Wigglesworth	50
Israel Munson	100	Timothy Williams	25
Samuel G. Perkins	50		
Thomas H. Perkins	300		\$ 4,600

the ministers of King's Chapel and the present proprietors of the Theological Library being entitled to the privilege of life subscribers so long as their books respectively should remain thus deposited, and the books being subject to all the regulations of the Athenæum. These libraries made an addition of thirteen hundred volumes, some of them rare works.

In this year, by a change of the laws, the price of an annual subscription was reduced from eighteen dollars to ten, and proprietors' tickets were made transferable for any period from three months to one year. An insurance on the buildings for ten thousand dollars was effected, and for the same sum on the books and other personal property. The privileges of a life subscriber were conferred on Gilbert Stuart, "as a testimony of respect for his eminent talents"; the same privileges having been voted the year before to Solomon Willard, for "the taste and skill with which the alterations in the Athenæum were planned and executed."

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors, in January, 1824, the Standing Committee of the Trustees reported, beside the above-mentioned deposit, an increase in books by the gift of four hundred and twelve volumes, exceeding the number given in any former year; and also, that during the past year a new manuscript catalogue of the Library had been completed, and the books had been arranged on the most approved plan. They also stated the whole number of books to be *fourteen thousand eight hundred and twenty*, including the volumes of newspapers and magazines, which were two thousand six hundred and forty-two; that the library had been thoroughly examined, was in good condition, and the missing volumes few. The officers chosen at this meeting were nearly the same as those of the preceding year, James Perkins, the son of the deceased benefactor, being

added in the place of Mr. Everett, who declined a reelection, and Mr. Codman being appointed Secretary in the place of Mr. Shaw.*

At this meeting, Mr. Lowell called for the reading of the report of the committee on the proposed lecture room, made on the 9th of June preceding; and, with a view to ascertain the opinion of the Proprietors on the subject, he moved, "that the Treasurer be authorized to return their money to the subscribers, giving notice thereof in the newspapers." The question being fully discussed, great doubts on the expediency of connecting a lecture room with the Athenæum were expressed, and also a settled determination not to supply the deficiency of the subscription fund for that object by creating a loan. Mr. Lowell's motion to return the money received a decided negative; and it was at last voted to call a meeting of the subscribers to the lecture room in connection with the Proprietors of the Athenæum for the purpose of receiving and acting on a report of the committee on subscriptions, of which Mr. Lowell was chairman, and to which had been referred the report of the committee for building the lecture room, on the 9th of June, 1823.

This joint meeting of the Proprietors and of the subscribers to the lecture room took place on the 2d of March ensuing; and the report of the committee, by Mr. Lowell, their chairman, stated, that, of the amount subscribed for the lecture room (\$4,300), five-sixths were to be regarded as donations; — that the lowest price for which the lecture room could be built, was 5200 dollars; — that the deficient sum could be easily raised by donations, without affecting

* Officers chosen in January, 1824. — *President*, Josiah Quincy; — *Vice-President*, Peter O. Thacher; — *Treasurer*, Nathan Appleton; — *Secretary*, Henry Codman; — *Trustees*, Theodore Lyman, Jr., Francis C. Gray, Amos Lawrence, Henry Codman, Samuel Swett, William Sturgis, Thomas Wigglesworth, George Ticknor, James Perkins.

any funds of the Athenæum ; — that the sum subscribed was a direct gain to the property of the institution, not only by the numerical amount subscribed, but by the introduction of new interests in favor of the general establishment ; — that it was the known expectation of the donor of the edifice now owned by the Athenæum, that a lecture room would be connected with the building ; and the committee therefore recommended that the building committee should be instructed to proceed as soon as the requisite sum should be obtained.

This report was accepted on a vote in which thirty-nine were in the affirmative and thirteen in the negative. Thomas H. Perkins was then added to the building committee, who were authorized to purchase any land adjoining that of the Athenæum, which they might deem expedient, and to appropriate for that purpose any portion of the funds subscribed for the lecture room.

At an antecedent meeting of the Proprietors in February, the committee for examining the Treasurer's accounts reported the funds of the Athenæum, on the first of January, 1824, to be \$61,266·21, viz.

In productive property,	\$24,213·02
Estate in Pearl Street, at its cost, .	21,541·29
Books as per ledger	15,511·90
	<hr/>
	\$61,266·21
That the increase for the year was .	1,636·00
And the expenditure	1,546·31

At this meeting, also, it was voted, “as a tribute of gratitude to William Smith Shaw, our first Secretary and Librarian, for his early, zealous, and successful services, by which the growth and prosperity of this institution have been greatly promoted, that the President be authorized to request Mr. Shaw to sit for his portrait, and to cause the same

to be placed in the reading-room ; and that a sum not exceeding three hundred dollars be appropriated to defray the expense of the same."

In the month of January of this year (1824), the arrangement was renewed between the Athenæum and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, on nearly the same terms as those acceded to in 1818, — by which the latter agreed to deposit its library in one of the rooms of the former, pay a stipulated rent for it, and allow the same use of its books as was permitted of other books in the institution, except that they were not to be carried out of the house by any one not a member of the Academy. The Athenæum was not to be responsible for the loss of the books in any way, nor bound to take more care of them, than they took of their own ; and the agreement was to be terminated at the pleasure of either party.

In April, of the same year, many valuable books were found to be mutilated, and a reward of one hundred dollars was offered for the detection of the offender. This circumstance led to a full report from the sub-librarian of all the books missing and mutilations committed in the library since the first establishment of the Athenæum ; from which it appeared, that, during the seventeen years, about *eighty* volumes had been lost, and, of those variously mutilated, the number was about *fifty*.

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors, on the 3d of January, 1825, a report from the joint committee of the Proprietors and Trustees, for visiting the library, was received, stating its general good condition, but its exposure to depredations and mutilations from the facility of access by all visitors to all its rooms, and recommending more restrictions upon admission to other rooms than the reading-room. The number of books the committee stated to be *fourteen thousand nine hundred and eighty-seven volumes*,

including books deposited, which amounted to *two thousand*. The want of a fund for the increase of the library was lamented by the committee, the Athenæum not possessing the means of purchasing even the works of literature and science which appear in our own country, but being principally indebted for these to the liberality of authors and publishers. The officers chosen this year were the same as those of the year preceding.

The committee on the Treasurer's accounts stated, that the productive funds of the institution were \$23,085.18 that the expenditure of the year had been . 1,644.34 and the income only 1,373.00

The election of the Librarian being vested, by the laws, in the Trustees, they, at a meeting on the 28th of January, 1825, chose Dr. Seth Bass;* and at the same time it was made the duty of the Librarian to report, quarterly, the state of the library to the Trustees, specifying the books missing or mutilated.

In April, the sum of two hundred dollars was placed under the control of a committee of the Trustees for the purpose of procuring new publications. This, in the succeeding month of July, was augmented to five hundred dollars, including the sum of one hundred and fifty dollars, *given for the purpose by an unknown individual*.

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors, on the 2d of January, 1826, the committee for examining the library reported that the Athenæum now possessed 15,039 volumes, 3,701 pamphlets, 559 engravings, and 98 medals; the coins being claimed by Mr. Shaw as his property.

A more accurate examination of the books of the library having been made, it was now ascertained 478 plates were

* Dr. Bass, continued in the office of Librarian for twenty years, and retired in 1846, with an expressive testimonial of the sense entertained by the Trustees, of his long and faithful service.

missing, including all that had been lost since the foundation of the institution.

By a report from the committee on the Treasurer's accounts, it appeared that the expenditure of the past year was \$1,487.50, and the income \$1,273.50.

By the resignation of Messrs. Thacher, Lawrence, and Sturgis, vacancies were made in the board of officers, which were filled by Messrs. Bowditch, Dorr, and Brooks.*

This meeting of the Proprietors was adjourned to the 6th of February ensuing; when, on a recommendation from the Trustees, it was voted, that a portion of the books might be circulated "to such proprietors and life shareholders as pay five dollars per annum for the privilege"; and a committee, composed of Nathaniel Bowditch, Francis C. Gray, George Ticknor, Thomas W. Ward, and Francis J. Oliver, was appointed to attend to this subject. The expediency "of uniting, in the Athenæum, the principal circulating libraries of this city" was then considered; and the same committee was appointed to make, if possible, an arrangement to that effect with the proprietors of those libraries.

By a report of the committee on the subject of a new building for lectures and for exhibiting works of art, it now appeared, that difficulties had occurred which had delayed their progress; that the reasons in favor of the measure were strong, but that the amount subscribed was not adequate to meet the anticipated cost. They recommended, however, "*that the proposed building be forthwith commenced, trusting to the good feelings, generosity, and pub-*

* Officers chosen in 1826. — *President*, Josiah Quincy; — *Vice-President*, Francis C. Gray; — *Treasurer*, Nathan Appleton; — *Secretary*, Henry Codman; — *Trustees*, Theodore Lyman, Jr., Thomas Wigglesworth, Nathaniel Bowditch, Samuel Dorr, Henry Codman, George Ticknor, Samuel Swett, James Perkins, Edward Brooks.

lic spirit of an increasing city for its completion.” This report was accepted, and a committee, of which Thomas H. Perkins was appointed chairman, was raised, with full powers to carry the same into effect.

On the 18th of March, 1826, a special meeting of the Proprietors was held, at the call of the committee appointed on the subject of the union of libraries and the circulation of books, of which Nathaniel Bowditch was chairman. On their report, it having had the previous sanction of the Trustees, an arrangement for the union of the Boston Medical Library with the Athenæum was unanimously agreed to by the Proprietors, on the following terms : That each Proprietor of the Medical Library should have the privilege of a life subscriber on the payment of *five* dollars *per annum*, and should become a Proprietor of the Athenæum by paying one hundred and fifty dollars, — such life-subscriber to have the right, on his removal from Boston, to transfer his share for and during the period of his life ; that the members of the Boston Medical Association should have access to the privileges of the Athenæum during the then coming year for the sum of ten dollars ; and that the Medical department should receive its full proportion of the sums applied hereafter to the purchase of books.

The same committee were now empowered “to make such an arrangement of the rooms and books in the present building, and to make and print such a Catalogue, as they may deem most expedient to constitute the Athenæum a valuable circulating library” ; and they were moreover “requested to ascertain what are its deficiencies in imperfect sets or otherwise, and to take such measures as may be approved by the Trustees for supplying the same.”

At this meeting, also, the committee on the subject of erecting “a building for an Academy for the Fine Arts, to comprise an exhibition room, lecture room, and a basement

to accommodate such societies as should incline to locate themselves" within it, reported that the whole cost was estimated to be \$12,400; that the amount already subscribed was \$4,486.50, leaving a deficiency of \$7,913.50; and that the interest upon this sum, amounting to about \$474, might readily be met by the income from the lecture room. They therefore proposed to raise the amount by loan, and to pledge the income of that room, as also of the exhibition and basement rooms, for the interest. To this proposition the Proprietors acceded, providing, however, that the Corporation should not be holden for the repayment of such loan, except so far as the lenders should be able to reimburse themselves out of the rents and profits of the edifice. The committee were also authorized to make arrangements with the Medical Society, the American Academy, the Historical Society, and the Scientific Library, for the occupancy of the rooms in the basement, and occasional use of the lecture room.

The situation of the Athenæum at this time was far from being satisfactory. By the liberality of James Perkins, their funds had been increased, and their local accommodations extended; but their available means were but in a very small degree applicable to the enlargement of the Library, even as to those new and periodical publications, which, to a majority of readers, constitute the chief interest of such an institution. The removal of its position had not augmented, but reduced, the number of annual subscribers, which were now only twenty; and the attempt to raise funds from public lectures was deemed, by many of the Proprietors, of dubious result, and, when coupled with the necessity of a debt, was to some of them absolutely obnoxious. From these difficulties the institution was happily relieved by the liberality of Thomas H. Perkins, the brother, and James Perkins, the son, of its first benefactor of that name.

On the 10th of April, the following letters, addressed to a member of the committee, were laid before the Trustees.

“ Boston, March 30th, 1826.

“ DEAR SIR, — Desirous of seeing the Athenæum placed upon the most reputable footing, and with a view to the increase of its resources, I beg you to make the following proposition to such gentlemen as are desirous of promoting the interests of this corporation, viz. that I will contribute the sum of eight thousand dollars towards the completion of the lecture room now contracted for, *provided* a like sum is subscribed *without the circle of my family connections*, for the general uses of the corporation, before the 1st of November next, the period at which the contractors agree to finish the building.

“ I think there is little doubt, that the exhibition room, lecture room, and basement will give an annual income of one thousand dollars and upwards, which it is presumed will be appropriated to the increase of the periodical and other publications, and which, with the aid proposed, will do much towards placing us upon at least as good a footing as our neighbours.

“ I am, dear Sir, your friend and servant,

“ T. H. PERKINS.”

“ To GEORGE TICKNOR, ESQ.

“ Pearl Street, March 30th.

“ DEAR SIR, — As it is unnecessary for me to state to you the interest I feel in the Athenæum, I have only to say, that I will give eight thousand dollars, provided that the same sum is raised from individuals beside the eight thousand dollars proffered to be raised to meet the offer of Col. T. H. Perkins. We shall, in this case, give to the institution sixteen thousand dollars, provided the like

sum of sixteen thousand dollars is raised from the community by the 1st day of November next.

“Yours truly, JAMES PERKINS.

“To GEORGE TICKNOR, ESQ.”

Votes were immediately passed by the Trustees, expressing to each of these gentlemen the deep sense entertained by the Board, of the munificent liberality manifested by each, “not only to this institution, but to the community.”

The committee, heretofore appointed by the Proprietors on the subject of the union of libraries and supplying deficiencies, was immediately authorized to collect, in any way they might see fit, the sums necessary to secure to the institution the full benefit of these munificent offers.

On the 9th of May ensuing, this committee reported to the Trustees, that they had obtained donations, and subscriptions for new shares, more than enough to comply with the conditions attached to the generous offers of the Messrs. Perkins; and a meeting of the Proprietors was held, on the 25th of that month, to consider and sanction their proceedings.

At this meeting, the above-mentioned committee reported, first, that the Medical Library had become a part of the Athenæum, by a contract duly executed, in conformity with the vote of the Proprietors; and secondly, that, in relation to the Massachusetts Scientific Library Association, the members had unanimously agreed to unite their institution with the Athenæum, on condition that all persons (there being twelve) who had subscribed one hundred, or fifty, dollars towards the Scientific Library, and who were not already proprietors or life shareholders in the Athenæum, shall have the privileges of life-subscribers to the Athenæum; — that the annual subscribers to the Scientific Library (there being seventy-five) shall have all the

rights of annual subscribers to the Athenæum, on the payment of ten dollars per annum; and also the right of life shareholders, so long as they pay that sum regularly;—that, for the above consideration, the whole sum subscribed to the Scientific Library shall be paid over into the funds of the Athenæum, to be expended in scientific books, under the direction of the Trustees of the Scientific Library. The committee recommended to the Proprietors the acceptance of these conditions, provided that the sum paid by the Scientific Library Association be not less than three thousand dollars by the first of July next, it being also understood that the above Association is entirely merged in the Athenæum.

The Proprietors accepted the report, and sanctioned the union with the Scientific Library Association, on the principles recommended.

On the subject of supplying deficiencies in the Library, the same committee made a report, which having been accepted and ordered to be published, soon afterward appeared in print, with some introductory remarks, as follows:

“BOSTON ATHENÆUM.

“Early in January last, a committee of the Trustees of the Boston Athenæum was appointed to take into consideration the subject of allowing the books to circulate among the Proprietors. This committee recommended, that an attempt should be made to unite several of the public libraries with the Athenæum, and that such of the Proprietors and life shareholders, as would pay annually five dollars, should be allowed to take the books from the library, under such regulations as should be agreed upon. This report was accepted, and a committee, consisting of

Nathaniel Bowditch, Francis C. Gray, George Ticknor, Thomas W. Ward, and Francis J. Oliver, was appointed, with full power to carry into effect the proposed measures. The same committee were also instructed to examine into and ascertain the deficiencies of the library, and to take such measures as the Trustees should approve to supply them.

“In pursuance of this plan, a union has been effected with the Medical Library, and with the Scientific Association. The Medical Library contained more than two thousand volumes of well-selected modern works on Medicine, Surgery, and Chemistry, purchased within ten years, at an expense of more than four thousand five hundred dollars. This Library now forms a part of the Athenæum. The Proprietors of the Medical Library, being thirty-one in number, were entitled to life-rights in the Athenæum, with the privilege of exchanging such life-rights for full shares by paying each an additional sum of one hundred and fifty dollars. Thirty of these Proprietors have taken shares in the Athenæum, paying in all, the sum of five thousand five hundred dollars; so that the property of the Athenæum is increased more than nine thousand dollars by this union.

“The Scientific Association, formed a few months since, for the purpose of procuring a collection of scientific books, have obtained a subscription of 3,715 dollars, of which above 3,000 dollars have already been collected. An agreement for a union with this association, having been made by the committee, was approved by the Proprietors of the Athenæum, at their meeting May 25th, 1826, and the whole amount subscribed will be appropriated for the purchase of the scientific books contained in a catalogue prepared by the Trustees of the Scientific Association. This catalogue does not contain any books now in the Athenæum, and it

will make a very important addition to their already respectable collection of scientific books. This department of the Athenæum will also be rendered much more complete by the sum subscribed in February, 1826, for *completing* the transactions of the Royal Societies and Academies of Sciences in London, Edinburgh, Dublin, Paris, Petersburg, Berlin, Turin, Göttingen, Stockholm, Copenhagen, Madrid, and Lisbon, making, in the whole, one of the most complete scientific libraries in the United States.

“The means taken by the committee to supply the deficiencies in the library will be seen by the annual Report, made to the Proprietors of the Athenæum, at their meeting May 25th, 1826, which was accepted and ordered to be printed.

“REPORT.

“The committee appointed by a vote of the Proprietors, March 18th, 1826, beg leave to report:—

“That, having ascertained the deficiencies in the library to be great, they were considering the expediency of a general subscription among the Proprietors to supply the same, when Col. Thomas H. Perkins, by a letter of March 30th, 1826, munificently offered to give eight thousand dollars towards the completion of the new Lecture Rooms, provided the like sum should be subscribed, by other friends of the Athenæum, before the first day of November next; and James Perkins, Esq., by a letter of the same date, and in the same munificent spirit, made a similar offer, on similar conditions. Whereupon your committee, in pursuance of their instructions, did on the 10th of April, lay the whole subject before the Trustees, who, after voting the thanks of their Board to Col. T. H. Perkins and James Perkins, Esq., authorized and requested

your committee forthwith to collect, in any way they might see fit, the sums necessary to secure to this institution the full benefit of the offer of the Messrs. Perkins. The committee, accordingly, proceeded to obtain subscriptions, and did obtain them to the following amounts, viz.

“ Donations,	\$10,090
Amount paid by the Proprietors of the Medical Library, to obtain full shares in the Athenæum, . . .	4,500
Fifteen new shares in the Athenæum, being all that remained unsold, . .	4,500
	<hr/>
	19,090
Donation of Col. Thomas H. Perkins, .	8,000
Do. of James Perkins, Esq., . . .	8,000
Subscriptions for the Transactions of London, Paris, &c., of which sum Col. Perkins subscribed \$500, and James Perkins, Esq., \$500, . . .	1,700
Scientific Association, (at least) . . .	3,210
	<hr/>
Amount in cash, or approved securities,	\$40,000
To this, add the value of the books of the Medical Library,	4,500
	<hr/>
Making the gross sum of	\$44,500

“ Being the amount of property added to the Athenæum since January last.

“ Having obtained this large and generous subscription, your committee proceeded to make arrangements for supplying the deficiencies in the Athenæum Library, according to the vote of the Proprietors. They have prepared lists of books, which will be purchased as soon as may be, and they have made arrangements for completing the

broken sets now in the Athenæum, and for binding the unbound books now on the shelves. Of the forty thousand dollars, therefore, which have been received, the following appropriations are already made, viz.

To the lecture room, Col. Perkins's	
donation,	\$8,000
Catalogue prepared by the Trustees of	
the Scientific Library Association,	3,210
Catalogue prepared by the Trustees of	
the Athenæum, (about) . . .	10,790
For binding and repairs,	1,500
	<hr/>
Making in all	\$23,500

“Leaving the sum of \$16,500 to be added to the permanent funds of the institution, the income of which is to be appropriated to the purchase of books hereafter. But this is not the only, or the principal new source of income, that will be opened to the Athenæum, for the purchase of books, which may be estimated as follows, viz.

Income from new fund, . . (about)	\$900
Do. “ lecture rooms, . . “	800
Do. “ circulation of books, “	900
Do. “ annual Scientific subscribers,	200
	<hr/>
Making the whole annual income	\$2,800

according to an extremely moderate computation, for the purchase of books; the income from the former funds of the institution having been found sufficient to pay the current expenses.

“This state of the Athenæum the committee have very great pleasure in laying before the Proprietors. The addition to its means, thus obtained in a very short time,

will probably render it second to no similar institution in the United States.

“All which is respectfully submitted.

“NATHANIEL BOWDITCH,
FRANCIS C. GRAY,
GEORGE TICKNOR,
THOMAS W. WARD,
FRANCIS J. OLIVER.*

“*May, 23, 1826.*”

* The following details are recorded in the Donation Book, under the date of April 5th, 1826.

“Thomas H. Perkins, \$ 8,000 | James Perkins, the younger, \$ 8,000

“In consequence of the above gifts, there was raised for the Athenæum at this time the sum of \$ 45,012.32 (including the gifts of the Messrs. Perkins), of which the sum of \$ 14,722.32 was received in the value of the Medical Library, in subscriptions for new shares, and for other privileges in the Athenæum; and the following sums were donations in money, viz.

William Phillips	\$ 1,000	John P. Rice	\$ 100
Peter C. Brooks	1,000	Francis Parkman	100
Ebenezer Francis	300	John Amory	100
John Lowell	300	Joseph Head	100
Thomas Wigglesworth	300	Samuel Salisbury	100
William S. Shaw	300	Thomas Williams	100
George C. Shattuck	300	James T. Austin	100
John Tappan	200	Thomas Bartlett	100
William R. Gray	200	Benjamin Joy	100
Francis C. Gray	150	John C. Howard	100
James Jackson	100	Charles Taylor	100
Patrick T. Jackson	100	Joseph Coolidge	100
Charles Jackson	100	Robert G. Shaw	100
Amos Lawrence	100	John C. Jones	100
Abbott Lawrence	100	David W. Childs	100
William Lawrence	100	Daniel P. Parker	100
William Prescott	100	William H. Eliot	100
William Sturgis	100	Jonathan Mason	100
Samuel Dorr	100	Charles Torrey	100
Richard D. Tucker	100	Benjamin Wiggins	100
Ebenezer T. Andrews	100	William Sawyer	100
Joshua Clapp	100	Joseph W. Revere	100
Pliny Cutler	100	Samuel Whitwell, jr.	100
Lewis Tappan	100	George Bond	100
Josiah Bradlee	100	John D. Williams	100
Josiah Quincy	100	John Parker	100
Daniel Hammond	100	Daniel Webster	100
Henderson Inches	100	George Ticknor	100
Joseph P. Bradlee	100	Nathaniel Bowditch	100
Horace Gray	100	George Burroughs	100
Israel Thorndike, jr.	100	William Pratt	100
Edward H. Robbins, jr.	100	Thomas W. Ward	100
Edward Tuckerman	100	Francis Lee	100

The Trustees, at a meeting in the same month, voted to request Thomas H. Perkins, to sit to Gilbert Stuart for his portrait, to be placed with that of his brother ; and a suitable appropriation was made to pay the expense.

John Belknap	80	H. A. S. Dearborn	50
Jesse Putnam	80	Timothy Williams	50
J. Hall	80	Thomas K. Jones	50
William H. Prescott	50	P. O. Thacher	50
Franklin Dexter	50	Edward Cruft	50

The following were donations in money, constituting the funds of the Scientific Library Association, viz.

Peter C. Brooks	\$100	George Bond	50
James Perkins, the younger	100	Amos Lawrence	50
Edward Brooks	100	Samuel Whitwell, jr.	50
William Sturgis	100	William Lawrence	50
Patrick T. Jackson	100	S. L. Dana	50
John Lowell	100	Jacob Bigelow	50
John A. Lowell	100	Horace Gray	50
Charles Jackson	100	Edward H. Robbins	50
George W. Revere	100	William Sullivan	50
George Ticknor	100	Richard D. Tucker	50
Israel Thorndike	100	Samuel A. Eliot	50
John Lowell, jr.	100	Edward J. Lowell	50
John C. Gray	100	Henry Lee	50
Gorham Brooks	100	William H. Prescott	50
Nathan Appleton	50	John Tappan	50
William Appleton	50	John C. Warren	50

The following sums were subscribed to be appropriated to the purchase of Philosophical and other Transactions, viz.

Thomas H. Perkins	\$ 500	George Ticknor	100
James Perkins, the younger	500	Thomas W. Ward	100
Israel Thorndike	250	Francis C. Gray	100
Nathaniel Bowditch	100		

CHAPTER. V.

SALES OF NEW SHARES AUTHORIZED — BY-LAWS RELATIVE TO TAKING OUT BOOKS — SETTLEMENT WITH THE ADMINISTRATOR OF WILLIAM S. SHAW — HIS PORTRAIT OBTAINED — TRIBUTE TO HIS MEMORY — SHELF CATALOGUE OF THE LIBRARY PREPARED — MEASURES FOR MAKING IT A CIRCULATING LIBRARY — ROOM CONTAINING CASTS OPENED TO ARTISTS — GENERAL BY-LAWS ESTABLISHED — TREASURER'S STATEMENTS — PROCEEDS OF THE FIRST FOUR EXHIBITIONS OF PAINTINGS — APPROPRIATED TO THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE FINE ARTS — BOOKS AND MAPS RELATIVE TO THE BOUNDARY OF MAINE LENT TO THE UNITED STATES — STUART'S ORIGINAL PICTURES OF GENERAL AND MRS. WASHINGTON PURCHASED — FINAL REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUPPLYING DEFICIENCIES IN THE LIBRARY.

ON the 10th of July, 1826, the Trustees caused a special meeting of the Proprietors to be called on the 24th of that month, for the purpose of considering the expediency of authorizing the sale of fifty new shares, as provided by an agreement with the original Proprietors. At the meeting thus called, the Proprietors, after declaring that, by the original subscription to the Athenæum, the number of shares was limited to one hundred and fifty, but that, by a subsequent, written agreement, signed by the original and other subscribers, dated July 19th, 1818, authority was given to the Corporation to create one hundred and fifty new shares, — of which authority the Proprietors, on the 20th of December, 1821, so far availed themselves as to empower the Trustees to sell new shares to the number of one hundred, — voted that the Trustees should have authority to sell any number of new shares not exceeding *fifty*, so as to make the whole number of shares *three hundred*. Of this authority, the Trustees afterwards availed themselves to its full extent.

On the 13th of December, 1826, a committee of the Trustees, appointed on the subject, reported the following

“By-Laws relative to taking out books from the Boston Athenæum : —

“I. Proprietors of shares, and life shareholders, by paying an annual assessment of *five dollars* shall have a right to take out books from the Athenæum. Also, such subscribers to the Scientific Library as have already complied with the conditions of the transfer of that Library to the Athenæum, and paid the first assessment, shall, by paying an annual assessment of *ten dollars*, have the right to take out books in the same manner as the Proprietors ; provided, however, that this right shall cease upon failure to pay this annual assessment, and that no person shall have a right to take out any book till all assessments and other dues are paid.

“II. Any person entitled to take out books under the last article may have, at any one time, three volumes.

“III. Books may be kept out of the Library one calendar month, and no longer ; and every person shall be subjected to a fine of twenty cents a week for every volume retained beyond that time.

“IV. Every book shall be returned in good order, regard being had to the necessary wear of the book with good usage. And, if any book shall be lost or injured, the person to whom it stands charged shall replace it by a new volume, or set, if it belonged to a set, or pay the current price of the volume or set to the Librarian ; and thereupon the remainder of the set, if the volume belonged to a set, shall be delivered to the person so paying for the same.

“V. All books shall be returned to the Library for examination on the second Wednesday of May, annually, and remain one fortnight. And every person then having one or more books, and neglecting to return the same, as herein required, shall forfeit and pay a fine of one dollar.

“VI. When a written request shall be left with the Librarian

for a particular book then out, it shall be the duty of the Librarian to retain the same for the person requesting it, for one day after it shall have been first returned.

“VII. The Librarian will attend for the delivery and return of books, from noon till 2 o’clock every day, Sundays excepted.

“VIII. The Trustees may, on special occasions, permit any person to use the books belonging to the Athenæum, under such restrictions as they may think proper to impose.

“IX. Very rare or costly books, which cannot easily be replaced are not to be taken from the Athenæum, except by a vote of the Trustees; and the new periodical publications, and new works imported from Europe, shall be withheld from circulation so long as the Trustees may deem expedient.

“X. No person shall lend a book to another, under the penalty of a fine of one dollar.”

At the same meeting, a committee, which had been at a previous meeting appointed by the board, to settle with the administrator of the estate of the late William S. Shaw, reported, —

“That they have completed such a settlement, as will be seen by the accompanying agreement, made with the Rev. Joseph B. Felt, on the 2nd of November, 1826, which agreement they pray may be considered a part of this report.

“And they further report the two following resolutions, which they propose for the acceptance of this board: —

“1. That the thanks of this Board be given to the Rev. Joseph B. Felt for the very liberal manner in which he has effected a settlement, with the Boston Athenæum, of the claims of the estate of the late William S. Shaw, Esq.

“2. That the thanks of this Board be given to the Rev. Joseph B. Felt for the donation of a large number of coins and medals.

“By order of the committee,

“N. BOWDITCH, *Chairman.*”

"AGREEMENT.

"This agreement, made this 2nd day of November, A. D. 1826, between the Boston Athenæum, of the one part, and the Rev. Joseph B. Felt, of Hamilton, in the County of Essex, Clergyman, Administrator of the estate of William S. Shaw, late of Boston, Esquire, deceased, witnesseth : —

"That, whereas it has been supposed that certain property of the said Athenæum might have been in the possession of the said Shaw at the time of his decease, and so have come into the hands of the said Felt, as his administrator, and that certain property of the said Shaw might have remained in the said Athenæum after the said Shaw's decease ; and whereas the said Felt has delivered to the said Athenæum certain books as belonging to them, and the committee of the said Athenæum have delivered to the said Felt certain volumes as belonging to him, — found in the possession of each respectively ; — now the said Felt doth hereby release the said Athenæum from all demands which are or might be made on his part upon the said Athenæum ; and the said Athenæum doth hereby release the said Felt from all demands which are or might be made by the said Athenæum on the said Felt. And the said Joseph B. Felt doth hereby present to the said Athenæum all coins, and other articles, remaining in the Athenæum, which may have been the property of the said Shaw.

" NATHANIEL BOWDITCH,	} Committee for the Boston Athenæum.
" F. C. GRAY,	
" GEORGE TICKNOR,	
" JOSEPH B. FELT, <i>Administrator.</i>	

"Voted, to accept the foregoing report, and to pass the resolutions therein contained ; and that the same be com-

municated to the Rev. Mr. Felt, by the Chairman of the Committee."

At this meeting, also, the Trustees authorized the room containing casts to be opened for the use of artists desirous of drawing from them; and a sum was appropriated to enable the Standing Committee to make arrangements for this purpose. The President, at this meeting, announced that the portrait of William S. Shaw, Esq., for which the President had been authorized to request him to sit, by a vote of the Proprietors in February, 1824, was nearly ready to be placed in the Athenæum; and, at the annual meeting in January, 1827, the Committee of the Proprietors on the union of Libraries, and the supply of the deficiencies of the Athenæum, closed their annual report with the following highly appropriate and most just tribute to his memory:—

"The Committee cannot conclude their report without adverting to the circumstance, that, since our last annual meeting, the earliest and most active among the founders of the Athenæum,—the individual to whom more than to any other its existence and first success are due,—has been removed by death. As a distinguished public benefactor, his name and memory should be especially preserved and cherished among us; for we owe him much. There was probably no other person in this community, who would have made so many personal sacrifices to secure to this city the benefits we now enjoy, and the still greater benefits we may reasonably promise ourselves and our children, from the foundation of this institution, which was chiefly established by his unwearied exertions, and which he lived long enough to see not only an object of general interest and regard, but so munificently patronized and sustained by the most liberal and intelligent among our citizens, that it had already

become more than his most sanguine hopes had dared to anticipate.

“ N. BOWDITCH,
F. C. GRAY,
GEO. TICKNOR,
THOMAS W. WARD,
FRANCIS J. OLIVER.”

The same Committee reported, that an examination more strict and thorough than usual had been made, whereby it appeared that many books which had been reported as lost were now found to have been only mislaid; that every box and shelf in the Athenæum had been numbered, and every book marked on the inside with the number of the shelf to which it belonged; and a manuscript inventory, or shelf catalogue, of the whole had been prepared, whereby the examination of the Library hereafter might be more easily and quickly made, and the absence of any volume readily detected.

They also reported their satisfaction with the settlement made by the Trustees with Mr. Felt, the Administrator of the estate of Mr. Shaw, noticing appropriately the liberal manner in which Mr. Felt had desired the Committee to accept all books supposed to be Mr. Shaw's not already on the shelves of the Athenæum, and also all the coins, whether supposed to have been claimed by Mr. Shaw or not.

They reported also, that 673 volumes, some of great value, and 155 pamphlets, had been presented to the Athenæum in the course of the year; enumerating many of the donations, and expressing appropriate acknowledgments, by name, to the donors.

It appeared by the same report, that upwards of 3,500 volumes had been bound or repaired; that 460 volumes

had been purchased, and between 13,000 and 14,000 dollars had been remitted to Europe for the purchase of books; and also that arrangements had, in a great measure, been completed, and rules adopted, for the purpose of constituting the Athenæum a circulating Library; an alphabetical catalogue of the library being nearly printed, distinct from the manuscript catalogue for facilitating the examination of the Library.

Concerning the pamphlets and coins, the Committee also reported, that the number which had recently come into the possession of the Athenæum was so great that they had not yet had the time suitably to examine them; that one thousand volumes of tracts had been bound, but that a great number remained unbound; that of coins and medals the Athenæum possessed upwards of 13,000, some of which were duplicates, some worthless, but that an interesting cabinet of several thousand pieces might undoubtedly be formed out of them.

In this report the proceedings of the Trustees, for the accommodation of the artists in the vicinity, by giving them free access to the casts, and ordering the room to be warmed for them three evenings in the week, were stated and approved.

By the Treasurer's Report,

The productive property of the		
Athenæum on the 30th of De-		
cember, 1826, was		\$45,475·52
Its estate in Pearl street, valued		
at its cost		21,790·40
Books per Ledger	do. . .	17,379·34
Lecture-room, and cash on hand		15,104·00
		<hr/>
		\$99,749·26

At this meeting, the Standing Committee reported, and the Proprietors accepted, the following

“By-Laws of the Proprietors of the Boston Athenæum, established January 1, 1827.

“CHAPTER I.

“*Proprietors' Meetings, and Elections.*

“ART. 1. There shall be Annual Meetings of the Proprietors, on the first Monday of January, at 5 o'clock P. M. and Special Meetings may be called at any time by order of the Trustees; all which shall be held at the Athenæum, or such other place as the Trustees shall direct. And in the absence of the President and Vice-President, some Proprietor shall be chosen to preside.

“ART. 2. At least five days' notice of every such Meeting shall be given, in two or more newspapers printed in Boston, and also by a notification to be left at the residence, or place of business in Boston, of each Proprietor; or, when this is not known, at the Post-office. And at least one day's notice of every adjourned meeting shall be given, in one such newspaper.

“ART. 3. There shall be chosen annually, a President, Vice-President, and Treasurer, who shall be, *ex-officio*, Members of the Board of Trustees, and nine Trustees, all Proprietors; and also a Secretary; to continue in office until others are chosen in their stead. And if any of these officers should not be elected at the Annual Meeting, they may be elected at any other meeting.

“CHAPTER II.

“*Powers and Duties of Officers.*

“ART. 4. The Trustees shall meet on the second Monday of January, April, July, and October, at six o'clock, P. M., at the

Athenæum, or at such other place as the President shall direct. Special meetings of the Board may be called by order of the President, Vice-President, or Standing Committee. Five members shall constitute a quorum. A printed notice of every meeting shall be sent to each member of the Board, at least three days before the meeting.

“ART. 5. The Trustees shall appoint a Librarian, and, if they think fit, a Sub-librarian, and fix their salaries. They shall direct the purchase of books, and transact, manage, and regulate all affairs of the Corporation, of what nature soever, in a manner not repugnant to the terms of subscription or the votes of the Proprietors. They shall cause the regulations of the Athenæum to be enforced, and may suspend the privileges of any one violating those regulations, or injuring the property of the Athenæum, until the next meeting of the Proprietors. They may make new regulations, which shall be laid before the Proprietors at their next meeting, and shall continue valid unless disapproved by them.

“ART. 6. A Standing Committee of three Trustees shall be appointed at each quarterly meeting of the Board, to continue in office until others are chosen in their stead. The Athenæum shall be visited by one of them, at least three times a week. They shall have the immediate management of the concerns and incidental expenses of the Institution, and may suspend the privileges of any person causing disturbance in the Athenæum, violating its rules, or injuring its property, until the next meeting of the Trustees.

“ART. 7. The Treasurer shall keep exact accounts of all the property of the Institution, and of all receipts and expenditures. He shall make complete statements of its pecuniary concerns to the Proprietors at their Annual Meeting, and to the Trustees whenever required. He shall pay no moneys, but by order of the Trustees or of the Standing Committee, and under such regulations as the Trustees may prescribe.

“ART. 8. The Secretary shall give notice of all meetings of the Proprietors and Trustees, as above provided ; shall record

in separate books the proceedings of each body, and all reports accepted by them. He shall submit his records to the Standing Committee, as soon as may be after every meeting, for inspection and approbation, and bring them with him to every subsequent meeting. He shall report to the same Committee all communications received by him, relating to the Institution; shall keep all papers in his department regularly on file, and take receipts for all certificates of shares which he may issue. In case of vacancy in the office, or of his absence from any meeting, a secretary *pro tempore* may be appointed by the Trustees.

“ART. 9. The Librarian, and in his absence the Sub-librarian, shall preserve and arrange in proper order all books and other articles in the Athenæum, and make out complete catalogues of the same. He shall cause the rules and regulations to be observed; shall report to the Standing Committee all donations and all communications received by him, and all violations of good order, or of the regulations of the Athenæum; and shall perform such other duties as the Trustees may from time to time prescribe.

“ CHAPTER III.

“*Rights and Obligations of Proprietors and Subscribers.*

“ART. 10. Proprietors and Life Subscribers shall be furnished with certificates of their property, under the seal of the Corporation, signed by the President and Secretary.

“ART. 11. Every Proprietor shall have two transferable tickets of admission to the Athenæum. But no transfer of them shall be made for more than twelve, or less than three months, nor be valid until recorded by the Librarian.

“ART. 12. Each Proprietor and Life Subscriber may introduce strangers, not residing within twenty miles of Boston, to the Athenæum; and such strangers shall be entitled to admission, afterwards, for the term of one month, upon having their names recorded, with that of the person introducing them, who

shall be responsible for their observing the regulations of the Institution. Any number of persons may visit the Athenæum in company with a Proprietor or Life Subscriber.

“ART. 13. Annual Subscribers shall be admitted on such conditions as the Trustees shall direct, upon paying a sum not less than ten dollars to the Librarian, to be accounted for by him to the Treasurer. But no subscription shall be received for a less term than a year.

“ART. 14. Rights and shares in this institution shall be indivisible.

“ART. 15. No transfer of a share shall be valid until the evidence thereof in writing is deposited with the Secretary; the old certificate being first given up or shown to be lost. And the Secretary may charge two dollars for each transfer, for the benefit of the Institution.

“ART. 16. Any person admitted to the Athenæum may propose the purchase of any publication, by inserting its title in a book kept for that purpose.

“ART. 17. Any person injuring the property of the Athenæum, and refusing to make compensation, or otherwise infringing the regulations of the Institution, shall be deprived of its privileges by the Standing Committee, until the next meeting of the Trustees, who shall take order thereon.

“ART. 18. Any person carrying a book or other article out of the building contrary to the regulations, shall forfeit his right in the Institution for one year,—or, if an Annual Subscriber, shall forfeit his subscription.

“CHAPTER IV.

“*Miscellaneous Articles.*

“ART. 19. The Governor, Lieutenant-Governor, Members of the Legislature for the time being, the Judges of the Supreme Court, and of the Courts of the United States, the Officers and Resident Graduates of Harvard College, and of the Theological Institution at Andover, the several Presidents of the American

Academy, Historical Society, Medical Society, Agricultural Society, Salem Athenæum, and East India Marine Society of Salem, and such persons as shall be specially invited by vote of the Trustees, shall have free admission to the Athenæum.

“ART. 20. A record shall be kept of all donations; and, on all books and other articles presented to the Athenæum, the name of the donor shall be inscribed in such manner as the Trustees shall direct.

“ART. 21. No books or other articles, not the property of the Athenæum, shall be deposited in it hereafter, unless by vote of the Trustees; and every thing thus deposited shall be at the risk of the owner.

“ART. 22. There shall be an annual examination of the Library, at such time as the Trustees shall direct, by a Committee consisting of six of the Trustees and six of the Proprietors, to be appointed by the Trustees. The report of this Committee on the condition of the Library, Reading-rooms, and all the other concerns of the Institution, excepting those which belong to the department of the Treasurer, shall be made to the Proprietors at the Annual Meeting.

“ART. 23. The Athenæum shall be opened at six o'clock, A. M. from the first of June to the first of September, and during the rest of the year at eight o'clock, and shall be kept open every day, excepting Sunday, until nine o'clock. P. M., and at such other times as the Trustees shall prescribe.”

The officers of the ensuing year, who were chosen at this meeting, were the same as those of the year preceding, excepting only that, Theodore Lyman, Jr. having resigned, George Hayward was elected in his place.*

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors of the Ath-

* Officers chosen in 1827. — *President*, Josiah Quincy; — *Vice-President*, Francis C. Gray; — *Treasurer*, Nathan Appleton; — *Secretary*, Henry Codman; — *Trustees*, Thomas Wigglesworth, Nathaniel Bowditch, Samuel Dorr, George Ticknor, Samuel Swett, James Perkins, Edward Brooks, Henry Codman, George Hayward.

enæum, on the 7th of January, 1828, the Committee appointed to examine the Library reported, that the duty had been fulfilled with great care, and that only one volume, and that of little value, had been lost since the last examination; a circumstance which, they add, gave them great pleasure, as it proved that the losses anticipated from the circulation of books had not been experienced. The books, also, were found in good condition; the whole number of volumes amounted to 21,945, there having been added to the Library during the year 4,356 volumes; the number added to the coins was 77; and the various works of art had been as well preserved as their then exposed situation would permit.

The financial condition of the Athenæum at the end of the year 1827, was stated to be as follows:—

In productive property	\$40,842·64
Net amount of subscriptions and receipts for, and from, the Lec- ture-room, after deducting all expenses, ordinary and extra- ordinary	15,550·82
Books	28,360·55
Real estate in Pearl Street . .	22,890·89
Expenses for excess of expendi- ture over income	580·09
Cash in the hands of the Treasurer .	57·53
Stock	<u>\$108,282·52</u>

At this meeting, several motions were offered for a modification of the terms on which books might be taken from the Athenæum, of the respective tenors following, namely,—first, that “Proprietors and Life Subscribers should have the privilege of taking out books on the payment of an

annual assessment of one dollar ;” — second, that “all books may be taken out the Athenæum (by those otherwise qualified) except such as shall be specially prohibited by a vote of the Proprietors ;” — third, that “any member of the Boston Medical Association may have all the privileges of an Annual Subscriber to the Boston Athenæum, with the right of taking books from the room containing the Medical Library, under the same rules as a Proprietor, on paying ten dollars annually in advance to the Librarian, and signing an obligation to obey the regulations concerning the circulation of the books.”

All these motions were referred to a committee, to report at an adjourned meeting on the first Monday of the ensuing February.

The Proprietors also voted, that the proxies of absent Proprietors may be admitted.

At this meeting the following officers were chosen, viz., Josiah Quincy, President ; Nathaniel Bowditch, Vice-President ; Thomas W. Ward, Treasurer ; Josiah Quincy, Jr. Secretary ; and Israel Thorndike, Jr., James Perkins, Jonathan Phillips, Henderson Inches, Joseph Coolidge, Jr., George Hayward, Edward Brooks, and Franklin Dexter, Trustees ; leaving one vacancy, the filling of which was postponed till the next meeting.

At the adjourned meeting of the Proprietors, the committee on the several motions on the subject of taking out books reported, — as to the first motion, that it was inexpedient to reduce the annual assessment as proposed therein, the present sum being necessary to enable the Proprietors to meet their current expenses ; — as to the second, that the members of the Boston Medical Association be admitted to the privileges asked for, as they had enjoyed a similar one before the union of the Medical Library with the Athenæum ; — and, as to the third, that the

Trustees should retain the power of withholding rare and costly books from circulation, as the Proprietors could in any particular instance, by a vote, modify the list of books to be withheld.

The report of this committee, after considerable debate, was accepted by the Proprietors.

A motion was then made that "the annual assessment be reduced from five dollars." This question was decided in the negative, by yeas 43, and nays 107.

Nathaniel Bowditch having declined the office of Vice-President, to which he had been elected at the preceding meeting, Francis C. Gray was elected in his stead. Jonathan Phillips and James Perkins having also declined their election as Trustees, the vacancies were filled by the election of Nathaniel Bowditch, George Ticknor, and Thomas Wigglesworth.*

The proceeds of the first exhibition of paintings, in 1827,			
amounted in gross receipts to	.	.	\$ 4,000
And the expenses incurred were	.	.	1,500

The amount paid to the Treasurer of Athenæum			
was,	.	.	\$ 2,500

The proceeds of this exhibition, in conformity with a subsequent vote of the Proprietors to apply such proceeds generally to the encouragement of the fine arts, were expended for the purchase of Trumbull's picture of the Sortie of Gibraltar, for \$ 2000, and also of Neagle's picture of the Blacksmith for \$ 400, and a portrait of Annibale Caracci, by himself, for \$ 100.

* Officers, as finally elected in 1828. — *President*, Josiah Quincy ; — *Vice-President*, Francis C. Gray ; — *Treasurer*, Thomas W. Ward ; — *Secretary*, Josiah Quincy, Jr. ; — *Trustees*, Israel Thorndike, Nathaniel Bowditch, George Ticknor, Henderson Inches, Joseph Coolidge, Jr., George Hayward, Edward Brooks, Franklin Dexter, and Thomas Wigglesworth.

The Commissioners appointed by the government of the United States, pursuant to a convention entered into with the government of Great Britain, having communicated a request to that effect through Governor Lincoln, the Trustees, on the 23d of October, 1828, voted to empower the President to deliver a number of books and maps, represented to be important to the statement of the claims of the government of the United States to the disputed territory in the State of Maine ; — a list of the books and maps so lent being placed on file and on record.

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors of the Athenæum, on the 5th of January, 1829, the result of the reports of all the committees of examination was highly satisfactory.

The committee having charge of the management of the funds resulting from the donations of the Messrs. Perkins and other individuals, under the instructions of the Proprietors, reported at length the result of their proceedings, from which it appeared, that they had expended on binding books, both old and new, \$ 2,185.09

And in the purchase of books, 11,896.42

Total, \$ 14,081.51

That there had been placed at
their disposition funds of

the Scientific Library, . . \$ 3,422.38

Subscribed for the Transactions

of learned societies, . . . 1,700.00

Of the Athenæum, for binding

books, 1,500.00

For the purchase of books, . . . 10,790.00

17,412.38

Difference, \$ 3,330.87

—being the unexpended balance remaining in the hands of the Treasurer.

It was then voted, on the recommendation of the Trustees,
 1. That the net proceeds of the annual exhibitions be devoted to the promotion of the fine arts. 2. That purchasers of shares on which the assessment for taking out books has not been paid, may take out books on paying *pro ratâ* for the remainder of the year, but not for less than one quarter. 3. That, if any book be lost or injured, and not replaced by a new volume, or set (if it belong to a set), the Trustees may require the person to whom it stands charged to pay *double* the current price of the volume or set. 4. That the Trustees may permit any clergyman regularly settled in Boston to take out books on the same terms as Proprietors.

The Treasurer's report for the year 1828 was also received at this meeting, and accepted, by which it appeared that the property of the Athenæum was as follows:—

In books,	\$ 31,615·58
In real estate on Pearl Street,	22,890·89
In Lecture-room,	15,550·82
	<hr/>
	\$ 70,057·29

And in deposit in the Hospital Life Insurance Office, in notes, and in various banks and manufacturing companies,	37,675·52
	<hr/>
	\$ 107,732·81

Viz. in stock,	\$ 105,330·31
Fine Arts,	1,948·44
Treasurer's hands,	454·06
	<hr/>
	\$ 107,732·81

By the same report of the Treasurer it appeared, that the proceeds of the several exhibitions of pictures were as follows : —

Of the first exhibition,	\$ 2,500·00
Of the second do.	2,492·26
And of an exhibition of the Capuchin Chapel, owned by Mr. Wiggin,	360·21
	<hr/>
	\$ 5,352·47

And that there had been expended in the purchase of busts and pictures,	<hr/> 3,404·03
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Leaving a balance in the Treasurer's hands to the credit of the Fine Arts department,	\$ 1,948·44
The annual income from all sources was stat- ed by the Treasurer to be	3,600·00
And the ordinary annual expenses were esti- mated by him at	3,500·00

At this meeting the annual election of officers took place, and, Israel Thorndike, Jr. and Thomas Wigglesworth having resigned their seats as Trustees, Messrs. Charles P. Curtis and John Lowell, Jr. were elected in their place.*

In March, 1829, the Trustees voted that Miss Hannah Adams should have the free use of the library. In May a letter was received from Mr. Quincy, resigning the office of President of the institution, whereupon it was voted that the same should be communicated to the Proprietors at their next annual meeting in January, 1830, when the thanks of the Proprietors were voted to Mr. Quincy for his services as President of the Athenæum during the last nine years.

* Officers chosen in 1829. — *President*, Josiah Quincy ; — *Vice-President*, Francis C. Gray ; — *Treasurer*, Thomas W. Ward ; — *Secretary*, Josiah Quincy, Jr. ; — *Trustees*, Nathaniel Bowditch, George Ticknor, Edward Brooks, Henderson Inches, Joseph Coolidge, Jr., George Hayward, Franklin Dexter, Charles P. Curtis, and John Lowell, Jr.

At this meeting of the Proprietors the committee appointed for the examination of the Library concluded their report with the remark, that, "taking into view the great circulation of the books of the institution, which amounts, on an average, to four thousand volumes a year, they were found in good condition, and in an order that did credit to the Librarian."

The committee on the Fine Arts reported that the gross receipts of the third exhibition of paintings

had been \$ 3,928-04

That the expenses had been \$ 1,005-31

And pictures had been purchased

at a cost of 600-00

1,605-31

Leaving a balance paid over to the Treasurer, \$ 2,322-73

From the annual report of the Treasurer, for

1829, it appeared that during the year he

had paid \$ 13,006-60

He had received 10,399-59

Leaving a balance credited in his account of \$ 2,607-01

From the Treasurer's report it also appeared that in December, 1829, the property of the Athenæum was as follows: —

In books, \$ 36,212-57

Real estate in Pearl Street, 22,890-89

Lecture-room, 15,550-82

\$ 74,654-28

In deposit in Life Office, notes, and bank shares, 35,675-52

In paintings, busts, &c., bought with the Fine

Arts funds, 6,159-03

Balances of foreign agents' accounts, 450-31

Making an aggregate of \$ 116,939-14

Of which there was to the credit of the	
stock account,	\$ 112,381·49
To the credit of the Fine Arts,	1,950·64
Of the Treasurer,	2,607·01
	<hr/>
	\$ 116,939·14

The above included all the property of the Athenæum for which money had been paid, but did not include donations of real estate, books, pictures, medals, charts, and other valuable and rare articles to a large amount.

The annual income for the then current

year was estimated to be about . . . \$ 3,301

And its ordinary expenditures were anticipated to be about equal to its annual income.

The committee appointed to cause suitable catalogues of the pamphlets to be prepared, reported that they had attended to that subject, and two were in process of preparation, one alphabetical, the other arranged according to the subjects; that there were above twenty thousand pamphlets in the Athenæum already bound up, and the two catalogues of these would fill four thick folio volumes.

The Proprietors voted, "That any person entitled to take out books may have at any time four volumes; and, where a set shall consist of more than that number, he may take out the whole, provided, however, that the total number taken out at one time by any one subscriber, in his own right, shall not exceed six volumes."

The choice of officers was then made for the ensuing year. Messrs. Coolidge and Brooks, having declined re-election, received the thanks of the Proprietors for their services, and Isaac P. Davis and Edward Wigglesworth were elected in their stead.*

* Officers chosen in 1830. — *President*, Thomas H. Perkins; — *Vice-President*, Francis C. Gray; — *Treasurer*, Thomas W. Ward; — *Secretary*, Josiah Quincy, Jr.; — *Trustees*, Nathaniel Bowditch, George Ticknor, George Hay-

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors in January, 1831, the committee on the Library reported, that it was in good condition ; that the number of books, as computed by the Librarian, was 25,555, including an addition of 790 during the last year ; that the catalogue of tracts, which had been preparing during the last two years under the superintendence of Professor Ticknor, Francis C. Gray, and Joseph Coolidge, Jr., was now completed, for which the thanks of the institution were due to the gentlemen above named, as well as to Dr. Augustus A. Gould, " who has made out the catalogue in a style which does him much credit."

By the report of the committee on the Fine Arts it appeared, that the net proceeds of the fourth exhibition (in 1830) had not been so great as those of the three previous years ; and, by the Treasurer's report, that they amounted only to about \$ 1,800.

The net receipts from all the four exhibitions, as stated by the Treasurer, had been about . . . \$ 10,000·00

Of which had been expended for paintings

and busts, 7,165·25

For an appropriation for Audubon's Orni-

thology, 800·00

Leaving a balance to the credit of the Fine

Arts fund of 1,925·73

Making \$ 9,890·98

The property of the institution in Decem-

ber, 1830, was as follows, viz. : —

Books, \$ 39,443·81

Real estate, 22,890·89

Lecture-room, 15,550·82

\$ 77,885·52

ward, Henderson Inches, Franklin Dexter, Charles P. Curtis, John Lowell, Jr., Isaac P. Davis, and Edward Wigglesworth.

Amount brought forward, . . .	\$ 77,885.52
Deposits in Life Office, notes, and bank shares, . . .	31,350.00
Paintings, &c.,	7,165.25
Balance in hands of foreign agents and Treasurer,	509.21
	<hr/>
	\$ 116,909.98

Of which there was to the credit of the stock account,	114,184.25
To the credit of the Fine Arts fund,	1,925.73
And to the credit of the fund for Audubon's Birds,	800.00
	<hr/>
	\$ 116,909.98

The above included all the property of the Athenæum, for which money had been paid, but not donations, to a large amount, of real estate, books, medals, paintings, cash, &c.

The income of the past year the Treasurer stated to have been \$ 6,891.01
And the expenses 5,472.93

And he expressed his belief that the income of the coming year would be sufficient to meet all demands.

The Proprietors then proceeded to the choice of officers, and, John Lowell, Jr. and Josiah Quincy, Jr. having respectively resigned the offices they held the last year, Samuel A. Eliot was elected in the place of the former, and William T. Andrews of the latter.*

At an adjourned meeting of the Proprietors, on the 10th of January, a report of a committee, that "it was not expedient, under present circumstances, to make any change

* Officers chosen in 1831. — *President*, Thomas H. Perkins ; — *Vice-President*, Francis C. Gray ; — *Treasurer*, Thomas W. Ward ; — *Secretary*, William T. Andrews ; — *Trustees*, Nathaniel Bowditch, George Ticknor, George Hayward, Henderson Inches, Franklin Dexter, Charles P. Curtis, Isaac P. Davis, Edward Wigglesworth, and Samuel A. Eliot.

in the existing regulations relative to the assessment levied on the Proprietors for the privilege of taking books from the library," was accepted without discussion. The thanks of the Proprietors were then voted to Josiah Quincy, Jr. for his services as Secretary to the Athenæum for the two past years.

At a meeting of the Trustees in May, 1831, a committee was raised to purchase of the family of the late Gilbert Stuart the original portraits by him of General and Mrs. Washington. This committee reported in December following, that they had been enabled to effect the object by the encouragement at once afforded by a liberal contribution from the Trustees of the Washington Monument Association, and from private individuals, amounting to \$ 1,500. "With this sum they purchased from the family of the late Gilbert Stuart, Esq., these original paintings, which, coming directly from the hand of the most distinguished artist who ever attempted the likenesses of General Washington and Mrs. Washington, are undoubtedly the most valuable and the most authentic of all the portraits ever taken of them."

In December of this year, the committee (Mr. Ticknor) on benefactors and donations, reported, that, "so far as the Treasurer's books, the records of the Secretary, the reports of committees, or any other memoranda within the control of the institution, contained any information on the subject, a list of all the donations and benefactors to the Athenæum has been made out and recorded in a suitable volume prepared for that purpose. To this has been added, in another volume, an index of donors' names with a reference to the pages of the first volume, in which their gifts are specified; so that the two, when taken together, form, it is hoped, a complete record of the great liberality which has been shown to this institution. At any rate, the record, it is believed, is as complete as can be made."

The books given to the Athenæum, during the then twenty-four years of its existence, were stated by the same committee to amount to about five thousand volumes ; and, to the end that a list of benefactors and their gifts, as required by the by-laws, might hereafter be kept, the Trustees passed a resolve, "that the Librarian, in the month of January in every year, give to the standing committee of the quarter a complete list of all benefactors to the Athenæum, and of their gifts ; and that the standing committee, after examining the same, cause it to be neatly entered in the book and index of donations, and each book or other article thus given to be marked with the donor's name."

A committee appointed in May (Messrs. Davis, Ward, and Ticknor) reported that they had procured a portrait of the Hon. Thomas H. Perkins to be executed by Thomas Sully of Philadelphia, conformably to the authority vested in them by the Board.

The committee on that subject (Messrs. Ticknor and Gray) reported the great completeness with which the pamphlets belonging to the institution had been examined and bound according to the tenor of two votes of the Board, under one of which above eighteen thousand pamphlets had been bound in 1,099 volumes, and entered in two catalogues, the one alphabetical, and the other according to subjects, — and under the other vote, out of twelve or fifteen thousand pamphlets lying in a confused mass, about fourteen hundred, not duplicates of those bound, had been selected and bound in 82 volumes, and entered appropriately in the alphabetical and scientific catalogues ; — "the catalogue according to subjects being divided so as to suit the particular nature of the vast collection of pamphlets in the Athenæum, and being provided both with a synoptical table and an index, so that any one of the subdivisions of its subjects may be readily found."

This mass of pamphlets the committee regarded as constituting one of the most curious and important departments of the Athenæum, and, being now for the first time made accessible, as of great value, and unequalled by any similar collection in this country. To prevent its being overlooked, a vote proposed by the committee was passed by the Trustees, that “in the month of January, in every year, the Librarian cause to be bound up all the pamphlets, not duplicates, received during the year preceding, and furnish to the standing committee a complete list of them, with a reference for each to the volume in which it is contained; and that the committee, after adding to the collection of the year any pamphlets which they think ought to be preserved in the Athenæum, shall cause the whole to be entered appropriately in the two catalogues provided for that purpose.”

CHAPTER VI.

STATE OF THE LIBRARY AND TREASURY — PROPOSITION TO ENABLE PROPRIETORS TO TAKE OUT BOOKS FREE OF CHARGE, REJECTED — VOLUMES MISSING FROM THE LIBRARY, AND MEASURES TAKEN ON THE SUBJECT — TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF DR. BOWDITCH — MEASURES TAKEN TO ERECT A MONUMENT TO HIS MEMORY — DONATION OF GEORGE W. BRIMMER — BEQUEST OF AMBROSE S. COURTIS, AND TRIBUTE TO HIS MEMORY — CATALOGUE OF COINS BELONGING TO THE ATHENÆUM, PREPARED BY CHARLES F. ADAMS — TRUSTEES OF THE ATHENÆUM APPOINTED VISITORS OF THE LOWELL TRUST — MEASURES ARE TAKEN FOR THE REMOVAL OF THE ATHENÆUM FROM THE HOUSE IN PEARL STREET — THE APPROBATION OF THE WIDOW OF THE DONOR IS SOLICITED AND GRANTED — PROSPEROUS STATE OF THE INSTITUTION.

AT the annual meeting of the Proprietors on the 2d of January, 1832, the committee for the examination of the Library reported the books to be generally in good condition, the number of volumes now belonging to the institution to be twenty-six thousand four hundred and fourteen, of which 799 had been purchased during the last year, and 60 had been given; — and that sixteen volumes alone were missing.

By the report of the Treasurer, it appeared that, from circumstances stated, he apprehended that in the ensuing year the expenses of the institution might exceed its income; that the net proceeds from the exhibition of pictures the past year had been . . . \$ 974·20

And there had been expended for premiums,
pictures, and bas-reliefs, by the committee on the Fine Arts, 1,000·00

Leaving a balance against the receipts of the season, \$ 25·80

The present balance in the books of the Treasurer to the credit of the Fine Arts fund was	\$ 1,532·10
The Treasurer further stated that the whole property of the Athenæum amounted to	\$ 119,234·44
Of which the stock account was	\$ 116,308·81
Fine Arts,	1,532·10
Audubon fund,	577·77
Debt to Barings & Company,	815·76
	<hr/>
	\$ 119,234·44

At the election of officers this year, it appears that all those of the preceding year were elected except Henderson Inches and Samuel A. Eliot, who had declined reelection.*

In consequence of the suggestion of the Treasurer, that the expenditure might exceed the income this year, the Trustees, at their first meeting, directed all orders for books to be countermanded, and voted that no orders for books be sent to Europe except through the Treasurer. In February of this year, a bust of Dr. Kirkland, in marble, by Horatio Greenough, was presented to the Trustees by a committee of citizens of the United States, who had casually met together in Italy; and it was accepted with an appropriate vote of thanks.

In October, the committee on the Fine Arts reported, that the exhibition of pictures this year had been satisfactorily successful, adding a net amount to the Fine Arts

* Officers chosen in 1832. — *President*, Thomas H. Perkins; — *Vice-President*, Francis C. Gray; — *Treasurer*, Thomas W. Ward; — *Secretary*, William T. Andrews; — *Trustees*, Nathaniel Bowditch, Isaac P. Davis, Charles P. Curtis, Edward Wigglesworth, Franklin Dexter, William H. Prescott, George Hayward, William J. Loring, and George Ticknor.

fund not far from \$1700, and that the result afforded a gratifying proof of the undiminished interest of the community in respect to this branch of the fine arts. Their recommendation of the purchase of several pictures and books on the arts was authorized by the Trustees, out of the Fine Arts fund. At the end of the year the standing committee reported, that the receipts of the year had exceeded the expenditures by more than four hundred and thirty dollars.

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors in January, 1833, the committee on the Library reported, that they found it in good order, and a thorough examination easy, reflecting much credit on the Librarian; that the whole number of books was, in May, when the examination took place, 27,157, and only five books were missing.

The Treasurer reported the property of the Athenæum to be \$ 121,767·30

Of which was stock, . . . \$ 118,585·41

Fine Arts fund, . . . 1,954·61

Audubon fund, . . . 577·77

Due Barings & Company, 649·51

\$ 121,767·30

It appears by this report, that the net amount of the proceeds of the exhibition in 1832 was . . . \$ 1,705·97

That there had been expended in the purchase of pictures, . . . 1,053·46

And the present balance of the Fine Arts fund was . . . 1,954·61

At this meeting, Thomas H. Perkins declined, by letter, a reelection to the office of President; on which an appropriate vote of thanks for his services was passed, and the other officers were reelected.*

* Officers chosen in 1833. — *President*, Francis C. Gray; — *Vice-President*,

Two motions, the one for keeping the reading-room open, from October 1st to April 1st, until 10 o'clock, P. M., the other for permitting the Proprietors to take out books free from any charge, were the occasion of a special meeting on the 14th of the same January, at which both propositions were rejected by a large majority.

At a meeting of the Trustees in December, the committee on the Fine Arts reported the difficulty of arranging a satisfactory exhibition of pictures this year, owing to the want of new specimens of the art, and the increased discrimination of the public taste;—that they had, therefore, been induced to make a contract with the owner of a collection of pictures, the exhibition of which had been very successful in New York;—and that the arrangement had, upon the whole, proved advantageous, the net proceeds of the exhibition amounting, for the Athenæum's share, to \$ 1,122·94;—also, that they had purchased, from the Fine Arts fund, a painting by Washington Allston, called “Isaac of York.”

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors in 1834, it appeared by the report of the committee for the examination of the Library, that it was found in good order, twelve volumes only were missing, and the whole number of bound volumes amounted to twenty-seven thousand four hundred and seventy.

The Treasurer reported that the income	
for the last year had been about	\$ 2,705·81
The general expenses,	2,643·65
That the net receipts from the exhibition of	
paintings the present year were	1,122·94

George Ticknor;—*Treasurer*, Thomas W. Ward;—*Secretary*, William T. Andrews;—*Trustees*, Nathaniel Bowditch, George Hayward, Isaac P. Davis, Edward Wigglesworth, William H. Prescott, Charles P. Curtis, Franklin Dexter, William J. Loring, and William T. Andrews.

That there had been expended for the purchase of pictures, &c.	\$ 405·76
And the present balance of the Fine Arts fund was	2,671·79
The property of the Athenæum was stated to be	123,185·88
Of which was to the credit of	
the stock account,	\$ 119,990·10
Fine Arts,	2,671·79
Audubon fund,	523·99
	<hr/>
	\$ 123,185·88

Letters were received from Dr. Bowditch and Mr. Ticknor, declining a reelection, and votes were passed expressing in the fullest manner the high sense entertained by the Proprietors of the value of their services. The Proprietors then reelected all the other officers of the last year, George Hayward being made Vice-President, and Thomas G. Cary and Nathaniel I. Bowditch added to the Board as Trustees.*

In October of this year, the expediency of purchasing for the Gallery of the Athenæum the four great architectural paintings by Pannini came under the consideration of the Trustees; and letters were received from several artists expressing their high estimation of those paintings and their pecuniary value. It being suggested that, the price being \$ 8,000, if one half was subscribed by the Athenæum, the other half could be raised by subscription, the Trustees voted that they would subscribe for the purchase of two of them at the price of two thousand dollars each, provided that the other two should be purchased and presented to

* Officers chosen in 1834. — *President*, Francis C. Gray; — *Vice-President*, George Hayward; — *Treasurer*, Thomas W. Ward; — *Secretary*, William T. Andrews; — *Trustees*, Isaac P. Davis, Edward Wigglesworth, Charles P. Curtis, Franklin Dexter, William J. Loring, William H. Prescott, Thomas G. Cary, Nathaniel I. Bowditch, and William T. Andrews.

the Athenæum. In the November succeeding, the pictures were purchased for \$ 6,000, four thousand dollars being paid out of the Fine Arts fund in conformity with this vote.

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors in January, 1835, the committee for examining the Library reported its general state to be highly satisfactory, fourteen volumes to be missing, and the whole number of volumes to be twenty-eight thousand one hundred and twenty-one.

The Treasurer reported the income for the	
past year to have amounted to . . .	\$ 3,108·81
And the general expenses and repairs to	2,147·71

That the proceeds of the exhibition of paintings this year amounted, for the Athenæum, to	\$ 1,324·32
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And that there was a balance, now remaining in the Treasurer's hands to the credit of the Fine Arts fund, of	2,922·50
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That the property of the Athenæum amounted to	124,591·83
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Of which was stock,	\$ 121,145·34
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Fine Arts fund,	2,922·50
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Audubon fund,	523·99
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\$ 124,591·83

Charles P. Curtis having resigned, the Proprietors proceeded to a choice of officers, and reelected all others of the preceding year, and also Samuel May in place of Mr. Curtis.*

At a meeting of the Trustees in March, 1835, a letter

* Officers chosen in 1835. — *President*, Francis C. Gray ; — *Vice-President*, George Hayward ; — *Treasurer*, Thomas W. Ward ; — *Secretary*, William T. Andrews ; — *Trustees*, Edward Wigglesworth, Isaac P. Davis, Samuel May, Franklin Dexter, William J. Loring, William H. Prescott, Thomas G. Cary, Nathaniel I. Bowditch, and William T. Andrews.

was received from Thomas H. Perkins, offering to subscribe five hundred dollars towards erecting a north wing to the Athenæum building, to receive statuary, casts, &c., provided a sufficient sum could be raised without encroaching on the funds of the institution; and also presenting to the Athenæum a marble bust of Chief Justice Marshall, by Frazee. Whereupon a vote of thanks was passed "for these two instances of his habitual munificence towards the institution."

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors in January, 1836, the committee on the Library reported its state to be satisfactory; only eight volumes missing, and the whole number of volumes twenty-eight thousand nine hundred and nineteen.

The Treasurer reported that the general expenses of the Athenæum, including books, periodicals, and general repairs, were estimated at about . . . \$ 3,000·00

The income for these purposes at . . . 2,600·00

This difference arose partly from the falling off of rents, and partly from the increasing expense for the purchase of books, and the yearly increasing value of the department of the fine arts.

The Treasurer stated that the whole property of the Athenæum was . . . \$ 127,331·89

The whole amount of stock, \$ 125,913·31

Audubon fund, . . . 430·99

Fine Arts department, . . . 141·17

Due the Treasurer, . . . 846·42

\$ 127,331·89

It appears by the above report and the Treasurer's books, that the net receipts from the exhibition of pictures in the year 1835 were . . . \$ 1,676·00

That the sum paid for the paintings by

Pannini, and for other objects connected

with the Fine Arts was . . . \$ 4,457·33

Which so far exhausted the whole fund as to

leave to its credit only \$ 141.17

At this meeting the former board of officers were reëlected, with the exception of Franklin Dexter and William J. Loring, who had resigned.*

At a meeting of the Trustees in March, 1836, Mr. Bowditch, in behalf of several gentlemen who had been students at law in the office of William Prescott, presented to the Athenæum a bust of that gentleman, by Frazee; and, in August, Thomas H. Perkins, Jr., presented a picture of "Eberhart, Comte de Wirtemberg, mourning over the Body of his Son"; for both of which suitable thanks were voted.

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors, in January, 1837, the committee on the Library reported in general its good state. About forty-six volumes were missing, but they were not such as were the most valuable, or as it would be difficult to replace. The total number of volumes on the day of their examination was twenty-nine thousand one hundred and eighty-four.

The Treasurer reported that the income for the last year, applicable to general expenses, was . . . \$ 2,648.65

And the general expense was . . . 2,481.37

The whole property of the Athenæum was \$ 128,591.90

Of which the credit to the stock

account was . . . \$ 127,340.60

The Fine Arts fund, . . . 942.23

Audubon fund, . . . 302.47

Treasurer, . . . 6.60

\$ 128,591.90

* Officers chosen in 1836. — *President*, Francis C. Gray; — *Vice-President*, George Hayward; — *Treasurer*, Thomas W. Ward; — *Secretary*, William T. Andrews; — *Trustees*, Isaac P. Davis, Edward Wigglesworth, Samuel May, William H. Prescott, Thomas G. Cary, Nathaniel I. Bowditch, William T. Andrews, John A. Lowell, and Samuel Lawrence.

That the proceeds of the exhibition of paintings for the year 1836 were . . .	\$ 1,770-00
There had been paid, as appears by his books, for busts, paintings, and incidental charges,	968-94
And that the present balance to the credit of the Fine Arts fund was	\$ 942-23

The above statement of property included only that which had been paid for, and not the large amount, of various kinds, which had been presented to the institution.

A vote was then passed, offering a reward of one hundred dollars for the conviction of any one for having stolen any of the books reported to be missing, and that a list of them should be published in two newspapers.

Thomas W. Ward having, at this meeting, declined a re-election as Treasurer, an appropriate vote was passed, acknowledging his valuable services in that office for nine years, and in promoting the general interests of the institution; and expressing the regret of the Proprietors, that his engagements did not permit a longer continuance of his services.

Francis C. Gray also now declined a reëlection to the office of President; and a like vote was passed, assuring him of the due appreciation, by the Proprietors, of his high qualifications for that office, of the liberality he had manifested in himself and promoted in others towards the institution, and of the various important services he had rendered to it. The Proprietors then proceeded to reëlect the officers of the preceding year, with the exception of those who had resigned.*

At a meeting of the Trustees in March, 1837, Isaac P.

* Officers chosen in 1837. — *President*, George Hayward; — *Vice-President*, Thomas G. Cary; — *Treasurer*, Josiah Quincy, Jr.; — *Secretary*, William T. Andrews; — *Trustees*, Edward Wigglesworth, William T. Andrews, Nathaniel I. Bowditch, William H. Prescott, Samuel Lawrence, Thomas B. Curtis, Isaac P. Davis, Samuel May, and John A. Lowell.

Davis reported, that in pursuance of an authority vested in him he had exchanged the picture of "The Mother and Child" by Allston, for a "Flower and Fruit Piece" by Peter Boel, and had paid \$ 100 in exchange.

In May, Mr. Davis reported that he had bought for the Athenæum, as authorized by the Trustees, the picture of "St. Cecilia," by Copley, and also certain pictures belonging to Henry Pickering, and that Mr. Pickering had presented to the Athenæum two pictures in addition.

A portrait of West, by Allston, purchased by Thomas Dwight, J. S. Copley Greene, B. D. Greene, Mrs. Gardiner Greene, Francis C. Lowell, R. Crafts, W. A. Lawrence, and R. C. Hooper, was now presented by them to the Athenæum, and the thanks of the Trustees were voted.

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors, in January, 1838, the committee for examining the Library reported that it was found in good condition, with the exception of twenty-six volumes missing; and that the whole number of volumes now in the Library appeared, by the Librarian's computation, to be thirty thousand and twenty-eight.

The Treasurer reported the whole property of the Athenæum to be

Books	\$ 49,513.40
Real estate,	22,890.89
Lecture-room,	15,550.82
Paintings and busts,	14,483.63
Productive property,	30,233.00

\$ 132,671.74

To the credit of stock,	\$ 128,765.48
Fine Arts fund,	873.11
Audubon fund,	302.47
Ambrose S. Courtis's donation,	2,000.67

\$ 131,941.73

Amount brought forward,	\$ 131,941·73
Debt to Barings & Co.	196·19
Due to Treasurer,	533·82
	<hr/>
	\$ 132,671·74

It appears also by the books of the Treasurer that the net proceeds of the exhibition of paintings, for the year 1837, amounted to \$ 524·88

At this annual meeting all the officers of the preceding year were reëlected.

At a meeting of the Trustees in April, 1838, the following tribute to the memory of Dr. Bowditch was unanimously passed : —

“Since our last meeting our country has been called to mourn the death of one of its most distinguished men, the late Nathaniel Bowditch. The connection of the deceased with the Boston Athenæum was so beneficial to this institution, that the Trustees are urged alike by official duty and by private feelings to express their sense of his loss.

“This institution is deeply indebted to the late Dr. Bowditch for the zeal with which he labored to advance its interests. Finding it weak, he determined, in connection with several other public-spirited individuals, to make it prosper. Their appeals to the munificence of our wealthy citizens were successful, and the resources of the Athenæum were greatly increased.

“For several years Dr. Bowditch, continuing a member of this Board, aided in the application of the funds which he had done so much to procure ; and the high rank which the scientific portion of our Library enjoys among similar institutions in the United States is, in a great measure, owing to his judgment and exertions.

“But Dr. Bowditch has far higher claims to notice. He stood at the head of the scientific men of this country, and

no man living has contributed more to his country's reputation. His fame is of the most durable kind, resting on the union of the highest genius with the most practical talent, and the application of both to the good of his fellow-men. Every American ship crosses the ocean with more safety for his labors, and the most eminent mathematicians of Europe have acknowledged him their equal in the highest walks of their science. His last great work ranks with the noblest productions of our age.

"But it is not merely the benefactor of this institution, and the illustrious mathematician whose labors have given safety to commerce and reputation to his country, whom we lament. It is one, whose whole life was directed to good ends, who combined the greatest energy with the kindest feelings, who was the friend of every good man and every good undertaking, the enemy of oppression, the patron of merit, the warm-hearted champion of truth and virtue. It is the companion, whose simple manners and amiable disposition put every one at ease in his presence, notwithstanding the respect which his genius inspired; and who could turn apparently without effort from the profoundest investigations, to take his part, with the light-heartedness of a child, in the mirth of the social circle. His heart was as tender as his intellect was powerful. His family found him as affectionate as he was wise. He was equally their delight and their pride. They could have no richer inheritance than his character, and nothing but such a character could afford them consolation for such a loss.

"Filled with a conviction of the truth of what is here stated, the Trustees desire to express it. Therefore it is

"Voted, that the Trustees tender their sincere sympathy to the family of the deceased, for the loss of one, as estimable in his private relations as in his public. And, while they know that no adequate consolation can be afforded under such a

calamity, they trust that some may be felt in the contemplation of a life so gloriously spent, and which has left enduring monuments of excellence in every department, whether of science or of practical utility, to which it has been devoted.

“Voted, that the Secretary be instructed to present a copy of the foregoing preamble and resolution to the family of the deceased.”

At a subsequent meeting the Trustees appointed a committee to coöperate with those of other societies in erecting a monument, at Mount Auburn, to the memory of Dr. Bowditch. :

In May of this year, the Trustees effected the purchase of the following pictures, out of a collection brought to this country by Count Celestini ; namely, “Judith” ; “A Head of Christ” ; two landscapes by Vanderwert ; a landscape by Boquet ; a landscape by Gaspar Poussin ; a landscape, with figures, by Zuccherelli ; a portrait of himself by Rembrandt ; and a portrait by Vandyke ; the expense of this purchase being four thousand dollars.

Mr. Davis, from the committee on the Fine Arts, reported that Dr. S. Townsend had presented to the Athenæum a portrait, painted by Sir Thomas Lawrence at the age of thirteen years ; for which thanks were voted. Mr. Davis also stated, that some gentlemen were desirous that the Athenæum should procure the magnificent work, on “The Antiquities of Mexico,” by Augustine Aglio, edited by Lord Kingsborough, in seven volumes, imperial folio, and that \$150 would be subscribed by them towards the object ; whereupon the Trustees voted to purchase the work, provided the whole cost should not exceed \$400.

In November, Mr. Davis presented to the Athenæum a bust of Nicholas Biddle, and Mr. Longworth presented a beautiful cast of a bas-relief portrait of Powers, the sculptor.

In the month of September, George W. Brimmer transmitted to the Athenæum a large and magnificent collection of works, chiefly in folio, embracing illustrations of architecture and architectural ornaments, and engravings of works of the great masters in painting and architecture ; also an extraordinarily fine painting, being an ancient copy of Guido's " Martyrdom of St. Sebastian," and a portrait of that painter at an early period of his life ; all constituting one of the most splendid accessions to the collections of the Athenæum from the munificence of any individual. For this an appropriate vote of thanks was passed by the Trustees, who directed that the books be preserved in suitable cases, and each volume be marked with the inscription, " The Brimmer Donation." About the same time a very valuable donation of copies of a " Cattle Piece " by Cuyp, and a " Holy Family " by Murillo, was received from Francis C. Gray, and suitably acknowledged by the Trustees.

At the annual meeting in January, 1839, the examining committee on the Library reported it to be in good condition, the number of missing volumes since the last examination to be fifteen, and the whole number of volumes in the Library to be thirty thousand two hundred and eighty-six.

The committee on the Fine Arts reported, that the receipts from the exhibition of paintings in 1838 were upwards of twelve hundred dollars, and stated, respecting the purchase of pictures made of Celestini, above mentioned, that they were of rare merit, such as seldom reach our shores, were in various styles of painting, and had been selected by gentlemen of judgment and taste from Celestini's whole collection. The opportunity of obtaining such pictures being of unfrequent occurrence, they had ventured to anticipate the proceeds of the exhibitions of future years for two of the payments, of a thousand dollars each. The committee, after recapitulating the great value of the Library

of the institution and of its collections of paintings and statues, recently increased by the donations of Mr. Brimmer and Mr. Gray, declared their opinion that the whole was too valuable to be kept in the Athenæum building, subject to the many disadvantages and dangers which they enumerated. They felt constrained, therefore, to urge upon the attention of the Proprietors the necessity of erecting a building for the safe and permanent deposit of the pictures and statuary.

At this meeting the subject of a final settlement with the heirs of Ambrose S. Curtis came under the consideration of the Proprietors.

By the will of Mr. Curtis, five thousand dollars were bequeathed to the Athenæum, on condition that the sum should "be placed at compound interest until, with other donations for the like purpose and object, it should amount to one million of dollars, when it should become the outright property of the Proprietors of the Athenæum, be funded, and the interest or income be applied for ever to the purchase of books and the general support of the institution." By the same will, another sum of five thousand dollars was bequeathed to the Athenæum on like terms, the interest or income of the fund, when it attained the amount of one million of dollars, "to be applied to the formation of a Gallery of Paintings, to be executed by artists born in the New England States."

The amount specified in the above conditions respectively being far greater than the Athenæum, by its charter, was permitted to hold, it was supposed that it would be necessary to apply to the legislature for liberty to accept it, if, notwithstanding other objections, its acceptance should be deemed advisable; and it was doubted whether the legislature could be induced to grant such an authority, considering the repugnancy of the terms of the bequest to the known principles of the Constitution and the policy of the Com-

monwealth in respect to the free transmission of property. A committee, which had been appointed on this subject, after recapitulating the difficulties incident to the negotiation, reported that a compromise had been proposed by the heirs of Mr. Courtis, and acceded to by the committee, and that the Athenæum was to receive the sum of five thousand dollars free of all restriction, in lieu of the complicated and embarrassing conditions annexed to these legacies by the testator. Their report was accepted by the Proprietors.

Ambrose S. Courtis was a merchant of great respectability in the city of Boston, who, after accumulating a handsome property by a life of professional diligence and skill, in addition to the liberal intentions above indicated in favor of the objects of the Athenæum, also devoted a large portion of his property for the benefit of the Massachusetts General Hospital and the Natural History Society, and in aid of the elementary education of the poor in Boston, Salem, and Marblehead.

The Treasurer, at this meeting, reported that the income for the past year, applicable to the general expenses, was \$ 3,729·80

And the general expenses and books were 2,285·83

That the balance of the Fine

Arts fund last year was \$ 873·11

The proceeds of the annual ex-

hibition of paintings, . 978·95

1,852·06

Paid this year on their account, 684·44

Balance to the credit of this

fund \$ 1,167·62

That the whole property of the institution

was \$ 138,707·55

Of which was to the credit

of stock,	\$ 131,177·68
Audubon fund,	302·47
Ambrose S. Curtis,	5,107·67
Baring, Brothers, & Co.,	250·22
Fine Arts,	1,167·62
Bowditch Monument	701·89

\$ 138,707·55

At this meeting Samuel Lawrence resigned his seat at the board of Trustees, and the Proprietors proceeded to re-elect all the other officers, substituting Enoch Hale in the place of Mr. Lawrence.*

At a meeting of the Trustees in February, 1839, the thanks of the board were voted to Charles Francis Adams for a catalogue of the coins of the Athenæum, which he had kindly and skilfully prepared. The Trustees also voted, that one half of the amount received from the executors of Ambrose S. Curtis should be devoted to the "Fine Arts Fund."

Notice having been received from John A. Lowell, executor of the will of John Lowell, Jr., that the Trustees of the Athenæum had been appointed visitors of the trust created by that will, a vote was passed by the board, directing that the opinion be obtained in writing, of counsel learned in the law, concerning the duties and liabilities of the Trustees of the Boston Athenæum under this trust; and, at their meeting in March, an opinion was received, that the acts of the Trustees as visitors of the Lowell trust would not bind or compromise the corporation in any

* Officers chosen in 1839. — *President*, George Hayward; — *Vice-President*, Thomas G. Cary; — *Treasurer*, Josiah Quincy, Jr.; — *Secretary*, William T. Andrews; — *Trustees*, Isaac P. Davis, Samuel May, Edward Wigglesworth, William H. Prescott, Nathaniel I. Bowditch, William T. Andrews, Thomas B. Curtis, John A. Lowell, and Enoch Hale.

way ; that the performance of the duty of visitors would be a voluntary act of the individuals composing the board, and might be withheld or declined at pleasure ; that the acts of the Trustees, as visitors, ought not to be recorded in the book of records of the Athenæum, but in a separate volume ; and that the trust fund would be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by the visitors in enforcing a compliance by the trustee with the provisions of the will, unless such costs be charged by the court on the trustee. Whereupon a vote was passed by the Trustees, accepting the trust of visitors of the Lowell Fund, according to the limitations and explanations of the liabilities incurred thereby, as laid down in the above-stated legal opinion.

When the Athenæum was removed to the estate bestowed by James Perkins, Pearl Street was the residence of private families ; but, in 1839, the increase of business and the erection of warehouses in that vicinity impressed upon a great majority of the friends of the Athenæum the necessity of its removal to some other part of the city. Preliminary to such a step, it was deemed proper to ascertain the views and feelings, on the subject, of Mrs. Perkins, the widow of him from whose bounty a large portion of their whole estate in Pearl Street had been derived. The Trustees, in June, 1839, appointed a committee on the subject, consisting of John A. Lowell and Thomas B. Curtis. This committee accordingly addressed a letter to that lady, in which they stated, that an opinion had long been entertained by the friends of the institution, that a more central situation would increase the patronage both of the library and of the exhibition, by adding to the facility of access and keeping them more constantly under the public eye ; that, knowing the peculiar interest she took in the Athenæum, the Trustees could not consent to take any steps without consulting her upon the subject, and they therefore ventured

to solicit her approbation of such removal; — adding, that “they would not make the request, were they not persuaded that the proposed change is one which will serve but to perfect the good work so nobly commenced by your husband.”

To this communication Mrs. Perkins replied in a letter expressing her thanks for the kindness and delicacy which suggested the application to her; and, although the removal might be of some inconvenience to her, it would ill accord, she said, with her feelings towards the institution, to oppose any selfish considerations to a measure calculated to promote its prosperity and public usefulness. She then gave her free assent to the proposed removal, should it be thought expedient.

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors in January, 1840, the committee on the examination of the Library reported it to be in good condition, and only seven volumes missing since the last examination. The whole number of volumes was thirty thousand nine hundred and eighty-one.

The Treasurer also reported, that the in-

come of the past year, applicable to the general expenses, was	\$ 2,808·93
The general expenses and books were	1,750·36
That the receipt from the exhibition of paintings, for the year 1839, was	1,718·07
The whole property of the institution was	\$ 139,297·64
In real estate,	\$ 22,890·89
Lecture-room,	15,550·82
Paintings, busts, &c.,	18,833·63
Books,	52,103·27
	<hr/>
	109,378·61
Productive property,	29,919·03
	<hr/>
	\$ 139,297·64

To the credit of stock,	\$ 135,224.54
Audubon fund,	93.77
Fine Arts	3,979.33
	<hr/>
	\$ 139,297.64

At this meeting all the officers of the preceding year were reëlected.

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors in January, 1841, the committee for examining the Library reported, that nineteen volumes had been lost during the year, generally of little intrinsic value, one or two only being important either from their nature or their connection with sets; that the whole number received during the year was eight hundred and seven; that the whole number of the volumes in the Library now amounted to thirty-one thousand eight hundred and seven; and that the general result of their examination was gratifying, and indicative of the fidelity of the Librarian.

The Treasurer also reported, that the income for the past year, applicable to general expenses, was . \$ 2,576.40

And the general expenses and books were 1,890.89

That the proceeds of the exhibition of
paintings for 1840 were 638.31

The balance of the Fine Arts fund at the
end of the last year was 3,979.33

Making a balance in its favor . . . \$ 4,617.64

That for nine pictures bought
of Celestini had been paid \$ 4,000.00

And otherwise for this depart-
ment 451.40

4,451.40

Leaving the balance to the credit of this fund \$ 166.24

That the whole property of the Athenæum	
was	\$ 140,651·78
	<hr/>
Of which there was to the credit of stock,	140,391·77
To the credit of the Fine Arts, . . .	166·24
Audubon's Ornithology, . . .	93·77
	<hr/>
	\$ 140,651·78

CHAPTER VII.

MEASURES TAKEN FOR REMOVING THE INSTITUTION — CRAWFORD'S MARBLE STATUE OF ORPHEUS PURCHASED — BUILDING ERECTED FOR IT — GREAT ENLARGEMENT OF THE FUNDS OF THE ATHENÆUM, ON CONDITION OF ITS REMOVAL — A SITE ON TREMONT STREET PURCHASED — PREMIUM OFFERED FOR THE BEST PLAN OF A NEW EDIFICE — THAT OFFERED BY GEORGE M. DEXTER ACCEPTED — CHANGE OF THE PROPOSED SITE OF THE NEW EDIFICE FROM TREMONT STREET TO BEACON STREET — PLAN, ADAPTED TO THE NEW SITE, AND DESIGNED BY EDWARD C. CABOT, ACCEPTED — NOBLE DONATION OF JOHN BROMFIELD FOR THE INCREASE OF THE LIBRARY — FACTS, AND MEASURES ADOPTED, IN RESPECT TO THAT DONATION — CHARLES FOLSOM CHOSEN LIBRARIAN — GREAT PROSPERITY OF THE ATHENÆUM — CORNER STONE OF THE NEW EDIFICE LAID WITH DUE CEREMONIES.

At the annual meeting, in January, 1841, the same officers were chosen as had served the institution for the two preceding years.

At an adjourned meeting of the Proprietors, it was voted that each owner of a share shall have free admission, with three members of his family, to all exhibitions of paintings or statuary belonging to the Athenæum, for the present year, he furnishing the door-keeper with the names of such members of his family as he shall designate for admission, their names being recorded, and they being made personally known to the door-keeper.

At a meeting of the Trustees in the same month, measures were taken to make known to the public the condition and size of the Library, and the advantages of the institution, by a publication of these particulars in the newspapers; and a committee was appointed to devise and carry into effect some plan for awakening the attention of the community to a removal of the institution, or such other measures as might serve to increase its usefulness.

In May, the Trustees authorized the sum of \$ 500 to be subscribed towards the fund for procuring the completion of "the Group of Orpheus," in marble, by Mr. Crawford, on condition, that when completed it should be the property of the Athenæum.

In July, Martin Brimmer presented to the institution a copy of Guido's picture of "St. Michael," by Châtelain. In December, the Trustees authorized the payment to Mr. Clevenger of \$ 150, on account of his bust of Mr. Allston.

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors, in January, 1842, the committee for examining the Library reported eight volumes to be missing, one of the works much mutilated, in other respects the Library in good condition, and the whole number of volumes now belonging to the Library to be thirty-two thousand two hundred and twenty-five.

The vote of the last year for the free admission of each Proprietor and three members of his family to the exhibition of pictures was continued for the present year.

The Treasurer reported that the income for

the past year, applicable to the general expenses, was	\$ 2,552·65
And the general expenses, and books,	2,817·15
During the year 1841, the Fine Arts fund received only a credit of	24·18
The balance the preceding year was	166·24
	<hr/>
	190·42
Paid for bust and expenses,	366·41
	<hr/>
Balance to the debt of this fund,	175·99
The whole property of the Athenæum was	\$ 141,649·98

Real Estate,	\$ 22,890·89	
Lecture-room,	15,550·82	
Paintings, busts, &c.,	19,221·63	
Books,	54,594·41	
	<hr/>	
	112,257·75	
Productive property,	29,392·23	
	<hr/>	
		\$ 141,649·98
To the credit of stock,	\$ 141,556·21	
Audubon fund,	93·77	
	<hr/>	
		\$ 141,649·98

At this meeting, the same officers were reëlected as had been chosen the three preceding years.

In February, John A. Lowell, as executor of the late John Lowell, Jr., presented to the Athenæum a "Statue of Venus Victrix, with a bas-relief of the Judgment of Paris, by our townsman, Horatio Greenough," for which the Trustees expressed their thanks.

In May, eighty-five volumes, in folio, of Parliamentary Documents on subjects appertaining to the employment and sustenance of the poor, and the punishment of crime, were presented by the Rev. Robert C. Waterston, which, in the opinion of the board of Trustees, deserved express mention and acknowledgment.

In June, the Trustees voted to pay \$ 125 for Powers's marble bust of Daniel Webster, \$ 375 being already raised for that purpose; the property of the bust to be in the Athenæum.

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors, in January, 1843, the committee for examining the Library reported it to be in good condition, six volumes only missing, and the whole number of volumes contained in it thirty-two thousand two hundred and eighty-four.

The Treasurer reported the income of the last year applicable to general expenses to have been	\$ 2,339·50
The general expenses and books to have been	3,003·91
That there had been received from the exhibition of paintings,	447·55
Balance the last year against the Fine Arts fund,	175·99
For paintings, bust, and expenses,	443·65
	<hr/>
	619·64
	<hr/>

Leaving a balance to the debit of the Fine Arts department, 172·09

The property of the Athenæum was stated to be \$ 142,397·51

Real estate, \$ 22,890·89

Lecture-room, 15,550·82

Paintings, busts, &c., 19,221·63

Books, 56,303·72

\$ 113,967·06

Productive property, 28,430·45

142,397·51

To the credit of stock, . . . \$ 141,746·34

Debt to Librarian, 188·39

“ Treasurer, 369·01

Audubon fund, 93·77

\$ 142,397·51

The Proprietors, at this meeting, reelected the same officers as had been chosen the four preceding years.

A communication was also received from the committee

on the Fine Arts, stating the facts and circumstances which had rendered the exhibition of pictures during the year 1842 almost wholly unproductive; and that, after the expense of much time and pains, no adequate return had been received.

In 1842, the population of the city had greatly increased, and Pearl Street had become almost entirely occupied by warehouses. The position of the Athenæum of consequence became incompatible with the main design of that institution, ready and easy access to a great public library being in a manner essential to its usefulness. A general desire began to be expressed for its removal. It was obvious, also, from the annual reports of the state of the several departments, that, while the books and the collection of the Fine Arts were increasing annually, the productive property of the institution was gradually diminishing, and the diminution in the proceeds of the exhibitions of paintings was, unquestionably, in a degree attributable to the local situation of the Athenæum.

In June, 1843, the Trustees therefore appointed Josiah Quincy, Jr., Thomas G. Cary, and John A. Lowell a committee "to see if any thing can and should be done towards removing the Athenæum from its present position to some place nearer the centre of the city."

In the ensuing October, this committee reported the probability of their being able to procure a very favorable site for the Athenæum upon Tremont Street and extending from that street to Court Square; and they were instructed to obtain the refusal of the land, and in such case to enlarge their number for the purpose of procuring subscriptions on condition that the Athenæum should be removed to the specified place; and it was directed that a meeting of the Proprietors should be called as soon as the committee should deem it expedient.

In September, the Trustees passed a vote authorizing the expenditure of \$ 300 for the erection of a suitable building for the reception and exhibition of the Statue of Orpheus.

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors, in the month of January, 1844, the committee on the examination of the Library reported its condition to be good, about fourteen volumes missing, and the whole number of volumes thirty-two thousand seven hundred and seventy-five.

The Treasurer reported the income for the	
past year, applicable to general expenses,	
to be	\$ 2,365·52
The general expenses and books,	1,716·36
That the balance to the debit of the Fine	
Arts, last year, was	172·09
That there had been paid on this account	
this year,	517·82
	<hr/>
	689·91
And that he had received as proceeds of	
the exhibition,	298·33
	<hr/>
Leaving a balance to the debit of the Fine	
Arts,	391·58
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The whole property of the Athenæum was	
stated to be	\$ 144,376·61
Real estate,	\$ 22,890·89
Lecture-room,	15,550·82
Paintings, busts, &c.,	19,221·63
Books,	57,671·16
Crawford's Statue of Orpheus,	584·31
Fine Arts fund,	391·58
	<hr/>
	\$ 116,310·39

Amount brought forward,	\$ 116,310·39	
Productive property,	28,066·22	
	<hr/>	\$ 144,376·61
To the credit of stock,	\$ 142,772·22	
Audubon fund,	93·77	
Due to the Treasurer,	1,510·62	
	<hr/>	\$ 144,376·61

The Proprietors, at this meeting, reëlected the same officers as had been chosen the five preceding years.

The committee on the Fine Arts reported a gain of five hundred and eighty-four dollars to the Athenæum by the exhibition chiefly of the works of art belonging to the institution, and also the gratifying information of the arrival of the marble statue of Orpheus, executed in Italy by Crawford. This statue had been purchased for twenty-five hundred dollars, of which gentlemen of the city of Boston had subscribed two thousand dollars, and the Athenæum five hundred, erecting also a building for its exhibition at the cost of three hundred.

At this meeting the committee on the subject of the removal of the Athenæum from Pearl Street reported, that they had obtained the refusal of a lot of land almost immediately adjoining the Savings Bank, and extending from Tremont Street to Court Square ; that the cost of the land and the erection of a suitable building would require one hundred thousand dollars ; and that the committee were unanimously of opinion, that the amount might be raised by the sale of the present buildings in Pearl Street and other property of the institution, by individual subscriptions, and by the issue of new shares. The committee reported a series of resolutions, declaring the expediency of the proposed removal to Tremont Street ; authorizing the issuing of new shares at three hundred dollars each ; and also empowering

the Trustees to dispose of the present building and any stocks or securities belonging to the corporation, and to take measures for erecting the new building on the lot proposed, as soon as they were satisfied that the means can be obtained for its completion without incurring a debt or permanently diminishing the income of the Athenæum. These resolutions were adopted, the first two unanimously, the last by a great majority.

The Trustees, at a meeting in the same month, reappointed the same gentlemen who acted the last year on the subject of removing the institution, authorizing them to purchase the land specified in their report to the Proprietors, whenever they shall obtain the assurance of a sum of money equal to 237 shares, at \$ 300 each. Nathaniel I. Bowditch was added to the committee, which now consisted of Messrs. J. Quincy, Jr., Cary, Lowell, and Bowditch, and authority was given to them to apply to the Legislature on behalf of the Trustees, should there be occasion for it.

At their meeting in April, the Trustees received a communication from the above-mentioned committee, stating that they had obtained the required number of subscribers (238) at \$ 300 each; but had suspended closing the bargain for the land proposed, in the hope of obtaining land at the head either of Hamilton Place or of Bumstead Place. In May, however, the committee reported that, having failed in obtaining either of these places, they had purchased the estate on Tremont Street, first recommended, and approved by the Proprietors. The Treasurer, in consequence, was authorized to collect the new subscriptions, and to issue certificates for the new stock to the subscribers. Subsequently, the committee was authorized to purchase the Greenleaf estate adjoining to their former purchase.

A bust of William H. Prescott, by Richard Greenough, was presented to the Athenæum by his father, William

Prescott. The committee on the Fine Arts were requested to communicate to Mr. Crawford, the sculptor of the marble statue of Orpheus, now the property of the Athenæum, the high opinion the Trustees entertained of the merits of the work.

At a meeting of the Proprietors in January, 1845, the committee on removing the Athenæum reported, that they had purchased 17,328 feet of land, for about \$ 4.85 per foot, \$84,102; — that the estimated cost of a suitable building was \$ 76,000, making \$ 160,102; — that the funds under their control were 241 new shares \$ 72,300, Pearl Street land and estate \$ 40,000, notes receivable \$ 28,000, making \$ 140,300, and leaving a deficit of \$ 19,802. They stated that the land purchased was larger than was originally contemplated, and by a sale of part of it funds sufficient for the completion of the building might be provided; but that the committee were desirous to obtain accommodation for the institution for all future time, and also to avoid any debt, however small, and therefore submitted a vote for consideration, authorizing them to erect a building covering the whole land purchased, as soon as twenty thousand dollars could be raised by the sale of new shares, or other disposition of parts of the building about to be erected. This vote was accepted, and the committee were directed to have plans of the building prepared, some with shops and others without, and to submit the same to the Proprietors at a meeting to be called for that purpose.

The Proprietors then proceeded to elect officers for the year ensuing, and, Isaac P. Davis, Samuel May, and Nathaniel I. Bowditch having declined a reëlection, Martin Brimmer, George S. Hillard, and Samuel Austin, Jr. were chosen in their places.*

* Officers chosen in 1845. — *President*, George Hayward; — *Vice-President*, Thomas G. Cary; — *Treasurer*, Josiah Quincy, Jr.; — *Secretary*, William T.

The committee for the examination of the Library, at this meeting, reported nineteen volumes to be missing, the number of volumes to be thirty-three thousand five hundred and three, and the Library to be in good condition.

The Treasurer reported that the income for the past year, applicable to general expenses, had been . \$ 2,825·88

The general expenses and books had been 1,944·68

That the balance to the debit of the Fine

Arts last year was \$ 391·58

There had been paid this year 247·79

\$ 639·37

And there had been received

this year, the proceeds of

the annual exhibition of

pictures, \$ 626·00

And of that of the statue of

Orpheus 366·02

\$ 992·02

Leaving a balance to the credit of the

Fine Arts department of \$ 352·65

That the whole property of the Athenæum

was now \$ 208,467·10

Viz. : — Real estate on Tre-

mont Street, \$ 46,102·00

Real estate on Pearl Street, 23,095·89

Lecture-room, 15,550·82

Paintings, busts, &c., . . 19,221·63

\$ 103,970·34

Andrews ; — *Trustees*, Edward Wigglesworth, William H. Prescott, Thomas B. Curtis, John A. Lowell, Enoch Hale, William T. Andrews, Martin Brimmer, George S. Hillard, and Samuel Austin, Jr.

Amount brought forward,	\$ 103,970·34	
Books,	58,679·81	
Statue of Orpheus,	484·31	
	<hr/>	
	\$ 163,134·46	
Productive property,	45,332·64	
	<hr/>	
		\$ 208,467·10
To the credit of stock,	\$ 207,915·75	
Audubon fund,	7·21	
Fine Arts department, . . .	352·65	
Baring, Brothers, & Co., . . .	191·49	
	<hr/>	
		\$ 208,467·10

At this meeting the committee on the Fine Arts expressed their sense of the great merit of the statue of Orpheus, "as one of the most meritorious productions of the modern chisel, and this the work of American genius;" an opinion which the Trustees subsequently ratified, and voted to communicate it to Mr. Crawford, with a tender of the free use of the Library.

At their first meeting the Trustees appointed Messrs. Quincy, Cary, Lowell, Curtis, and Andrews the building committee for the new edifice, and, they having offered the sum of one thousand dollars as a premium for the best plan, the offer was approved by the Trustees at their next meeting.

At a special meeting of the Proprietors called on the 20th of May, 1845, to consider the plans submitted for the new Athenæum building, a vote was proposed, that a building should be erected on the specified lot "in such a manner as will either by lecture rooms, picture galleries, offices, or shops, or some combination of any or all of them, yield an income at least equal to an income on sixty thousand dollars." To this proposition was offered an amendment restricting

the accommodations to be provided for in the building to galleries for paintings and statuary, and to lecture rooms. After consideration and debate the whole subject was referred to a committee of ten, with instructions to consider and decide upon the various plans submitted, and to report at a future meeting a plan for the Athenæum, and estimates of the expense. After this vote a further vote was passed, instructing the above committee "*to report no plan of the Athenæum, which shall embrace shops or offices.*" The committee appointed were Thomas G. Cary, Franklin Dexter, Charles Sumner, George S. Hillard, Martin Brimmer, Nathaniel I. Bowditch, William Gray, Thomas B. Curtis, Charles Amory, and Jacob Bigelow.

The above proceedings were based upon a report of the building committee, stating the financial condition of the corporation in respect to the new building to be as follows:—

Land on Tremont Street, 16,521 feet,	
which cost	\$ 82,902·00
Estimate for the new building,	100,000·00
	<hr/>
	\$ 182,902·00

The means provided to be,—

Real estate on Pearl Street,	\$ 50,000·00
238 new shares,	71,200·00
Bank stock, &c.,	27,750·00
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	\$ 148,950·00

Leaving a deficiency of	\$ 33,952·00
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In this position the committee stated that it was necessary either to raise more money by the sale of shares, to sell a part of the land and erect a smaller building, or to erect a building, that, in addition to meeting the wants of the Athenæum, would yield an income sufficient to pay the interest on the debt, provide for a sinking fund, and secure

an income equal to that derived from the productive stock which will be absorbed in the erection.

The income to be secured is	\$ 1,500·00
The interest on \$ 34,000·00	1,700·00
	<hr/>
	\$ 3,200·00

The committee expressed their opinion, that a building might be erected on some of the plans submitted, which would pay this amount and provide a sinking fund that would extinguish the debt within ten years.

The committee of ten reported to the Proprietors at a special meeting on the 24th of June, expressing their opinion that the proposed site for the Athenæum was preferable to any new one which had been offered. Among the plans presented, they decided in favor of that submitted by George M. Dexter. After stating the probable, but yet uncertain proceeds of a lecture-room, they conclude by recommending, that, *since shops had been prohibited* by the vote of the Proprietors, "a new appeal be made to the public for aid to sustain the sentiment involved in the prohibition, and that a committee be appointed to obtain subscriptions for new shares to the extent of \$ 30,000 ;" which, with the other enumerated resources of the institution, would be sufficient to prevent the using of the funds of the Athenæum already invested in stocks, which it was desirable to preserve, amounting to \$ 26,000. After consideration and debate, the Proprietors passed a resolve delegating to the Trustees all authority necessary for carrying into execution the recommendations of the committee, with power to appoint committees and make the necessary contracts ; and the Treasurer was directed to pay to George M. Dexter the premium of one thousand dollars.

In the course of the month of November another site had been suggested for the Athenæum, which accorded

with the views of many proprietors ; and on the 19th of November a special meeting of the Proprietors was called, at which the committee for building the proposed new edifice reported, that a sufficient sum could not be raised by subscription to render it prudent for the Athenæum to erect a suitable building on the site proposed, unless parts of it should be devoted to purposes more certainly productive than a lecture-room would be. They therefore recommended the passing of a resolution, that the estate on Tremont Street should be sold, and an estate on Beacon Street, belonging to Edward B. Phillips, should be purchased, if it could be obtained on satisfactory terms. This report was accepted, and the resolution, including the terms specified, was passed.

The Trustees at their meeting in the ensuing December voted to purchase the above estate for \$ 55,000, \$ 15,000 to be paid down, and \$ 40,000 by a note of the Proprietors payable in ten years, at an interest of six per cent. paid semiannually, the same to be secured by mortgage ; and the building committee were authorized to make a sale of the estate recently purchased on Tremont Street.

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors on the 5th of January, 1846, the committee for examining the Library reported, that it was found in good condition, that fourteen volumes were missing, and that the whole number of volumes was thirty-five thousand one hundred and seventy-five.

The Treasurer reported that the income for the past year, applicable to general expenses, had been . . . \$ 3,089·70

And the general expenses and books . . . 1,741·30

That the balance last year to the credit of

the Fine Arts was \$ 352·65

That there had been received from the ex-

hibition of paintings for the year 1845 . . . 592·26

\$ 944·91

Amount brought forward	\$ 944·91
And that there had been paid on their account this year	119·38
	<hr/>
Balance to the credit of the Fine Arts fund	\$ 825·53
That the estate on Tremont Street and Court Square had been sold the past year for	\$ 109,221·25
Leaving to the Athenæum a net profit of	20,597·44
That the whole property of the Athenæum was	\$ 313,128·40
Viz.: — Real estate on Pearl	
Street,	\$ 23,095·89
Lecture-room,	15,550·82
Paintings, busts, &c.,	19,221·63
Books,	60,097·75
Beacon Street estate,	55,000·00
Crawford's statue,	700·00
	<hr/>
	\$ 173,666·09
Productive property,	139,462·31
	<hr/>
	\$ 313,128·40
To the credit of stock,	\$ 214,824·09
Audubon fund,	7·21
Notes payable,	76,800·00
Due Barings & Company,	74·13
Fine Arts fund,	825·53
Real estate on Tremont	
Street,	20,597·44
	<hr/>
	\$ 313,128·40

At this meeting the committee on the Fine Arts reported, that the Boston Artists' Association had offered, the last year, to furnish contributions to the annual exhibition of

paintings, to procure others from artists in other cities, and to take the whole charge of preparing and managing the exhibition, on the condition of receiving a moiety of the net proceeds; that the committee, taking into consideration that it was the design of the Artists' Association to apply their portion of the proceeds to the support of a school for drawing from casts and from life, made with them an agreement on the terms proposed; and that the result of the exhibition for the year 1845, thus conducted, amounted to \$1,184.52, one half of which, \$592.26, had been paid over to the Treasurer of the Athenæum. The committee expressed their opinion, that a continuance of the same understanding with the artists might afford a salutary stimulus to improvement on their part, and would subserve the important end of furnishing means for the support of the school alluded to; and a hope that future committees on the Fine Arts would pursue a like policy.

At this meeting, Mr. Hayward having resigned the office of President and Mr. Andrews that of Secretary, they received appropriate thanks of the corporation for their services; and, Messrs. Curtis and Brimmer also having resigned their places as Trustees, Messrs. Binney, Holmes, and Amory were elected, and the other members of the former board were rechosen.*

At the same meeting Josiah Quincy stated, that a gentleman of this city had placed in his hands twenty-five thousand dollars, "to be delivered to the Proprietors of the Boston Athenæum for the purpose of constituting a fund to be kept separate and distinct from all other funds, and to be put and

* Officers chosen in 1846. — *President*, Thomas G. Cary; — *Vice-President*, John A. Lowell; — *Treasurer*, Josiah Quincy, Jr.; — *Secretary*, Henry T. Parker; — *Trustees*, William T. Andrews, Edward Wigglesworth, William H. Prescott, Enoch Hale, George S. Hillard, Samuel Austin, Jr., Amos Binney, Oliver W. Holmes, and Charles Amory.

for ever to be kept out at interest on good security, for the regular annual increase of the Library of the institution ; three fourths of its annual income to be annually applied to such increase of its Library ; the remaining one fourth to be annually added to the capital fund, for the increase thereof ; the incomes of such accumulated capital to be also annually in like manner exclusively applied in like proportions and on like terms ; all incomes not expended for books within the year to be also added to the capital fund, for its increase."

Upon the motion of Mr. John A. Lowell the Proprietors voted their acceptance of the sum proffered on the terms specified, and requested Mr. Quincy "to express to the donor their unanimous thanks for this opportune and highly valuable endowment." They also voted that the fund now presented be kept separate, and be called by the name of the donor ; and that the books purchased from the income of the fund be inscribed with his name.

After these votes were passed, Mr. Quincy, before communicating the name, stated that the gift was wholly the result of the donor's own generous feelings and exemplary views ; that, previously to his delivering the amount bestowed, a conversation occurred, the substance of which Mr. Quincy deemed it no breach of confidence to state, although without the knowledge or authority of the donor ; and which was to this effect : — that, "under the circumstances of the donor's relations in life and to society, he had for a long time been impressed with a sense of his duty to do something of a permanent and useful character for a city, in which a great part of his life had been passed. Having been recently informed of the deficiency of this great public institution in respect to a fund for the increase of its Library, his mind had been impressed with the importance and utility of supplying that deficiency, and his reflections resulted

in the belief, that this was an object to which he could best apply the means at his command. His first determination was to do this by will. Reflecting, however, upon the uncertainty of life and the accidents to which all wills are subject, his mind came to the conclusion that it would be a far better fulfilment of duty to supply the wants of the institution, in this respect, in his own lifetime, and render the fund immediately available. Having finally come to the determination, for these reasons, to make the gift in his lifetime, but having an almost insuperable aversion to publicity, his first prevailing thought was, to give it under strict injunctions of secrecy. From this course he was, however, ultimately deterred by reflecting how almost impossible it was in an inquisitive and intelligent community to keep such a secret long and perfectly; and also it seemed to him a species of hypocrisy to pretend to hide what it was, in a manner, certain, that time would ultimately and perhaps speedily reveal."

Mr. Quincy said that the strong desire of the donor was, that as little should be said or done on the subject as was possible considering the nature of the donation. After these remarks he stated the donor to be JOHN BROMFIELD, ESQ.

The Trustees at their meeting in January, 1846, appointed a building committee, to consist of the President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and Messrs. Andrews and Amory; and authorized them to take measures to erect a suitable building on the land lately purchased on Beacon Street, with as much despatch as was consistent with the advantageous execution of the work.

They then, in consideration of the munificent donation of Mr. Bromfield, voted to him the privilege of taking out books under the usual regulations without charge, accompanied by an invitation to him, through the Secretary, to visit the Athenæum at all times.

The increase of the capital of the institution, and the prospective annual enlargement of the Library under the operation of the Bromfield fund, as well as the new arrangement of its several departments and the improvement in its administration which would be requisite on a removal to the projected building, made it obvious to the Trustees that some person, specially suited by learning, taste, and judgment, ought to be invited to take the place of Librarian; and Charles Folsom, formerly Librarian of Harvard University, being considered to possess these qualifications, as well as great interest in and acquaintance with such labors, was unanimously chosen, Dr. Bass being now made Assistant Librarian.

In April, 1846, the building committee reported, that they had selected, from all the plans for the new building which had been offered, one, of which Edward C. Cabot was the designer, and for which the estimate, accompanying it, was fifty-nine thousand dollars, and that this was to be executed jointly by him and George M. Dexter. The proceedings of the committee were approved by the Trustees, who at the same meeting received from Mr. Folsom a letter accepting the office of Librarian.

At their meeting in June the necessity of a thorough repair of the binding of the books in the Library, previous to its removal from its present situation, was stated by the Librarian, with a recommendation that the work should be done within the walls of the Athenæum, under his special supervision; a measure, which he was authorized to begin immediately to carry into effect.

At a meeting of the Trustees, in October, 1846, a letter was received from Amos Binney, Esq., offering to the Athenæum a collection of engravings after the Flemish painters; on which the Trustees voted their thanks for this very interesting and valuable donation, assuring him that they

would follow his suggestions in regard to the mode of preparing and arranging them for preservation.

In November, twenty-six valuable volumes, being mostly translations of the Scriptures into various languages of India, were presented by Captain Eben S. Coffin, and also seventy-three octavo volumes, mostly legislative documents of the State of New York, including a large folio volume of the Census of that State, were presented by the Rev. Dr. William B. Sprague, of Albany; for each of which donations an appropriate vote of thanks was passed by the Trustees.

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors, holden on the 4th of January, 1847, the officers of the last year were re-appointed. The committee for examining the Library reported about ten volumes to be missing, its condition in other respects to be good, and the whole number of volumes to be thirty-seven thousand two hundred and seventy-five.

The Treasurer reported the income of the past year, applicable to general expenses, to have been . \$ 5,286·68

And the general expenses and books to have been 3,831·37

The balance to the credit of the Fine

Arts fund was last year 825·53

That from the exhibition of pictures and

other sources had been received 901·06

\$ 1,726·59

That there has been paid on this account 419·16

Leaving to the credit of the Fine Arts fund, \$ 1,307·43

The Treasurer reported the whole property

of the Athenæum to be \$ 342,121·69

Viz., Real estate in Pearl

Street, \$ 23,095·89

Amount brought forward, . . \$	23,095·89
Lecture-room,	15,550·82
Crawford's statue of Orpheus, . . .	700·00
Paintings, busts, &c.,	19,221·63
Books,	62,254·64
Real estate in Beacon Street,	64,960·12

\$ 185,783·10

Productive property	156,338·59
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\$ 342,121·69

To the credit of stock, . . \$	218,147·64
Real estate in Tremont Street,	20,505·91
Audubon fund,	7·21
Notes payable,	76,800·00
Fine Arts fund,	1,307·43
Bromfield fund,	25,353·50

\$ 342,121·69

The Treasurer also stated that \$1,058·00 had been drawn from the Bromfield fund, and invested in books to be specially marked and kept as accruing from the liberality of the donor of said fund, agreeably to the vote of the Proprietors of the Athenæum.

The committee on the Fine Arts reported, that the annual exhibition of pictures had been prepared in concert with the Boston Artists' Association, and that the net income of it was \$ 892·26

Of which one third belonged to the Artists'

Association, 297·42

And two thirds to the Athenæum, 594·84

At this meeting of the Proprietors, a vote was passed, requesting Mr. Bromfield to sit for his portrait or bust (as he might prefer), to be preserved in the Athenæum. This vote was duly communicated to Mr. Bromfield by the Pres-

ident, who received a courteous answer, containing the following characteristic sentence :

“ Deeply impressed with the kindness of the motives of the gentlemen who have made this proposition, and fully appreciating the honor intended to be conferred upon me thereby (for which I beg you to tender them my most grateful and unfeigned thanks), I nevertheless beg leave, most decidedly and explicitly, to decline their very friendly and polite proposition.”

Dr. Bass being about to retire from his office after a service of more than twenty years, the Trustees, at their meeting in May, passed a vote, “ That the Treasurer be directed to pay to Dr. Seth Bass one thousand dollars, as a testimonial of the esteem of the Trustees for one who has served the Athenæum so long and so faithfully in the office of Librarian ; and that Dr. Bass be invited to visit the rooms of the institution at pleasure after his connection with it shall have ceased, and be authorized to take from the Library, free of expense, the usual number of books allowed to a Proprietor.” Mr. Charles Bullard Fairbanks was appointed Assistant Librarian, at the same meeting.

On the 27th day of April, 1847, the corner stone of the new building on Beacon Street was laid with suitable ceremonies, of which the following account appeared in the “ Boston Daily Advertiser ” of the next morning.

“ THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM.

“ THE ceremony of laying the corner stone of the new building to be erected for the Athenæum took place yesterday morning, and was attended by a large number of the Proprietors, of the literary gentlemen of Boston, and of others interested in the prosperity of this valuable institution. The President of the Athenæum, the Hon. Thomas G.

Cary, opened the proceedings with the following appropriate remarks.

“ *Gentlemen,*

“ *Proprietors of the Boston Athenæum :*

“ The circumstances under which we meet to-day are a fit subject for cordial congratulation.

“ But I shall not enlarge upon them, because one of the founders of the institution, who is with us here, has kindly consented to address you. He knows its history from its earliest infancy to its present expanded state. He has presided over the direction of its affairs in times of difficulty, when wisdom and skill, such as his, were necessary to save it from falling into premature decay.

“ After the eminent success with which he has directed the various and important interests that have been intrusted to him from the dawn of the century to this time, his presence here, and his sanction of our proceedings, are among the most favorable auspices of the day.

“ Gentlemen, — For the present, I have only to say to you, in behalf of those who are now charged with the management of your affairs here, that, after the ample rewards which they have received for their exertions to extend the usefulness of the institution, all that has been done thus far has only opened the way to further progress, and shown the necessity for continued exertion. We ask the further coöperation and aid of all those who have at heart what tends to the welfare and ornament of society.

“ Gentlemen, — I now invite you to listen to an address from a former President of the Association, the Hon. Josiah Quincy.

“ Mr. Quincy then delivered the following address.

“ *Gentlemen,*

“ *Proprietors of the Boston Athenæum :*

“ We assemble to unite in laying the corner stone of an edifice, destined to protect the monuments of science and of the

arts ; — to be a store-house of the fruits of the wisdom of all ages and nations ; — a library of whatever is rare and valuable in ancient and modern languages ; — a literary reservoir, to which all may resort for intellectual health, strength, and refreshment.

“ The Trustees of the Athenæum having thought that this occasion ought not to pass without a public recurrence to the grateful reminiscences it awakens, and having urgently solicited me to be their voice at this ceremony, I have yielded. Being one of the few survivors of the first subscribers to this institution, having been for many years in its direction, acquainted with all its early founders, many of whom were my most intimate and cherished friends, I am happy in the opportunity of bearing public testimony to my long-entertained and heartfelt respect for their worth and excellence.

“ A notice of this kind seemed to the Trustees the more proper and indispensable, as they were not so much laying the corner stone of a new fabric, as in effect removing that of an old one, and, from motives of convenience, relaying it in a spot now better adapted to promote the enlargement and usefulness of the institution. At such a time our thoughts naturally turn to its origin, progress, and success ; requiring us to retrace and deepen the memory of its founders and distinguished benefactors, to enumerate the particulars which constitute its present prosperity, and to repeat its claims on the future patronage of the public.

“ Neither the time nor the place, assigned for this ceremony, is suitable for the full performance of so extensive a class of duties ; I shall, therefore, at present, only sketch a brief outline of those events, of which the laying of the corner stone is but a result and a symbol.

“ On the origin of this institution there rests no obscurity. Early in the year 1805, a few earnest and energetic literary men, just entering upon life, formed themselves into a Society for the purpose of mutual self-improvement, and for the conducting of a periodical publication, which, as subsidiary to that

purpose, they had undertaken. They soon found themselves straitened, and the progress of their work embarrassed, by the literary poverty and apathy of the period. To relieve themselves, in a degree, from these wants, on the 23d of October, 1805, they voted, 'that a library of periodical publications be instituted for the use of the Society.' In furtherance of this design, John Sylvester John Gardiner, William Emerson, William Smith Shaw, William Tudor, jun., and Joseph Stevens Buckminster immediately contributed largely from their own libraries. At subsequent meetings, similar liberality was displayed by other members of the Society, and 'a library was thus established of periodical publications, for the use of the Society.' In this limited form, you behold, Gentlemen, the germ, the vital principle, and the nucleus of this great institution.

"The members of the Society soon found by experience, that contributions from the libraries of a few private individuals, nearly one half of whom were clergymen, and none of whom were affluent, were wholly insufficient to supply their literary necessities. It was apparent that external aid must be sought. But the attempt was novel, and, in the state of the times, success appeared dubious. The tact of William Smith Shaw first discerned a way of escape from their difficulties. Having formed the opinion, that, by asking from the community only a small pecuniary advance, and by promising a quick return in pleasure and information, what a love of letters might not effect, a love of novelty and amusement might obtain, he proposed, and, on his motion and active urgency, the associated scholars were persuaded to attempt, establishing a Reading-Room, to be called, after the name of their Society, 'The Anthology Reading-Room.'

"A prospectus was accordingly issued, one hundred and sixty subscribers, at ten dollars a year, were obtained, and, on the strength and hope afforded by this voluntary annual subscription of sixteen hundred dollars, this new source of rational pleasure and intellectual improvement was opened to the public, and the busy external world were invited to try its reviving and strengthening influence.

“Scanty as was this success, it exceeded the expectation of the Society, and encouraged its members to contemplate, and prepare the way for, an institution on a broader basis and of a more comprehensive character. With this view, in the course of a few months they transferred to five Trustees their whole property in the reading-room and library, then amounting to one thousand volumes, and gave them authority, at their discretion, to convey the whole to a corporate body, and, if they deemed it expedient, to change the name and character of the institution.

“Under this authority, the Trustees associated with themselves Theophilus Parsons, the Chief Justice of the State, John Davis, the United States Judge of this District, and John Lowell, one of the most efficient and active men of the period, leading and zealous in the promotion of every wise, noble, and good object. With their aid and under their auspices the plan of this institution was traced, an act of incorporation was obtained, and on the 7th of April, 1807, ‘the Proprietors of the Boston Athenæum’ organized themselves into a body politic and corporate, according to the provisions of their charter; all the Trustees being elected out of the members of the Anthology Club, excepting only that the offices of President, Vice-President, and Treasurer were filled, respectively, by the three distinguished gentlemen above named. A subscription of one hundred and fifty shares, at three hundred dollars each, was speedily effected; and on this foundation, somewhat exceeding in amount forty-two thousand dollars, the Boston Athenæum commenced its career of activity and usefulness.

“We have thus traced the course of this institution from its origin, in the wants of a few intellectual and energetic young men, to the period when it assumed a chartered existence. Its first movements were, however, restricted by the inadequacy of its means to its necessities. Public patronage began to flow towards it, indeed, but yet slowly and inefficiently. For the first fifteen years, its condition was, consequently, stationary and languid, until, in December, 1821, new life and hope were infused into it by the proffered liberality of the elder James

Perkins (one of the most prosperous merchants and noble spirits of this community), which resulted in his voluntary gift to the Athenæum of that noble estate in Pearl Street, which it now occupies. Under the stimulus of his example, a subscription was opened in 1822, seventy-three shares, at three hundred dollars each, were taken, and nearly twenty-two thousand dollars were added to the efficient means of the institution.

“Notwithstanding this successful augmentation of its resources, circumstances impeded its desired advancement until, in the year 1826, Thomas Handasyd Perkins, the brother, and James Perkins, the son, of our first benefactor of that name, came to its aid, and, by donations noble in amount and wise in their conditions, gave a further impulse to the spirit of the community; and thus this institution was at once raised to an enviable height of prosperity by the reiterated munificence of a family, which, for patronage of science and the arts, and for generous support of institutions of charity and philanthropy, may well vie, in the city of Boston, with that of the Medici in Florence.

“In consequence of these donations, a subsidiary action was excited in the community; a union, with this institution, of the libraries and funds of other Societies was effected; large additional subscriptions were obtained, chiefly through the exertions and influence of the late lamented Nathaniel Bowditch, aided by Francis Calley Gray, George Ticknor, and Thomas Wren Ward; and an addition was thus made to the funds of the Athenæum of nearly forty-five thousand dollars.

From this time the institution has advanced annually and regularly; — its library enlarging; — its statuary and other works of art multiplying; — its property increasing, until, through the progress of population and commerce, its local position became incompatible with its objects and usefulness; when, through large subscriptions, excited by the desire of providing for it a better locality, — through the union above mentioned of the libraries and funds of other Societies, — through the establishment of a perpetual fund for the increase of its library by the noble munificence of one of our native citizens, John Bromfield, — the

Boston Athenæum, feeble in its origin, humble and restricted in its first resources, now numbers in its alcoves upwards of thirty-seven thousand volumes, possesses a valuable collection of paintings, statuary, and other works of art, and a property, real and personal, exceeding in value three hundred and forty-two thousand dollars.

Under circumstances thus prosperous and auspicious we meet this day to lay the Corner Stone of this edifice. May it rise in architectural solidity and beauty, — an ornament of our city, an honor to its Proprietors! May it fulfil all the hopes and aspirations of its projectors, early founders, and successive patrons! May it become a library of all that is rare and valuable in the ancient and modern languages, — a store-house of the collected fruits of the wisdom of all ages and nations! May it be an abode for the Fine Arts, — a home for sculpture and painting, where they may find models to imitate and patrons to encourage and reward them! By easiness of access, and by the variety of its treasures, may it allure our youth from the pleasures of sense to the delights of science! And, aided by the literary taste and spirit now from year to year disseminated throughout our community by free public lectures, — once a favorite object of this Athenæum, but now superseded by the noble and faithfully executed provisions of the will of the late John Lowell, junior, — may these associated institutions, by joint and harmonious action, raise, in after times, the intellectual, moral, and social condition of the people of this metropolis to such a height of purity, knowledge, and virtue, as shall reflect upon the memories of their respective founders and patrons the glory of being, not only honored benefactors of our city, but acknowledged blessings to their race!

“At the close of the address, the President announced, that, under the direction of the building committee, the corner stone would then be lowered into its place.

“After this was done, he announced that there was deposited beneath it a copper case, containing the statistic

annals of the time, the coins of the country, the papers of the day, with various memorials of the present condition of the city, and of the state of society, and also a silver plate, on which is engraved the following inscription :

[On the face.]

THE CORNER STONE OF THIS BUILDING,
DEDICATED TO LETTERS AND THE ARTS
BY THE PROPRIETORS OF THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM,
WAS LAID
ON THE TWENTY SEVENTH DAY OF APRIL, IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD
ONE THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND FORTY SEVEN,
AND IN THE FORTY FIRST YEAR OF THE INSTITUTION;
WHICH,
FOUNDED BY THE EXERTIONS
OF WILLIAM SMITH SHAW AND THE OTHER MEMBERS OF
THAT ASSOCIATION OF INGENUOUS SCHOLARS,
"THE ANTHOLOGY CLUB,"
HAS IN LATER DAYS BEEN ENLARGED AND ADORNED
BY THE GENEROSITY AND PUBLIC SPIRIT OF MANY CONTRIBUTORS,
AND ESPECIALLY BY THE MUNIFICENCE OF
JAMES PERKINS,
THOMAS HANDASYD PERKINS, HIS BROTHER,
JAMES PERKINS, HIS SON,
AND
JOHN BROMFIELD.

WHENEVER THIS STONE SHALL BE REMOVED,
MAY IT BE ONLY TO IMPROVE AND PERPETUATE THE INSTITUTION.

[On the reverse.]

Principal Endowments of the Boston Athenæum before the Year 1847.

The sum of Forty-Two Thousand Dollars was raised for the general purposes of the Athenæum by voluntary subscriptions for shares created in 1807.

JAMES PERKINS, in 1821, gave his own costly Mansion in Pearl Street, which from that time has been the Seat of the Institution.

In the same year, Twenty-Two Thousand Dollars were raised by voluntary subscriptions for shares.

THOMAS HANDASYD PERKINS (beside his earlier and later valuable donations) and JAMES PERKINS, the younger, seconded in 1826 the liberality of the brother and the father, each giving Eight Thousand Dollars; and the sum of their contributions was increased to Forty-Five Thousand Dollars by other subscriptions, obtained chiefly through the efforts and influence of Nathaniel Bowditch, Francis Calley Gray, George Ticknor, and Thomas Wren Ward.

AUGUSTUS THORNDIKE, in 1823, gave a choice collection of casts of the most celebrated Ancient Statues.

GEORGE WATSON BRIMMER, in 1838, gave a magnificent collection of books on the Fine Arts.

JOHN BROMFIELD, in 1846, gave Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars as a fund, to be regularly increased by one quarter of the income, of which the other three quarters are to be annually applied to the purchase of books for ever.

The sum of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars, for the erection of this Building, was raised by voluntary subscriptions for shares created in 1844.

OFFICERS FOR THE YEAR MDCCCXLVII.

President, Thomas Greaves Cary. *Vice-President*, John Amory Lowell. *Treasurer*, Josiah Quincy, Jun.

Trustees, William Turell Andrews, Edward Wigglesworth, William Hickling Prescott, Enoch Hale, George Stillman Hillard, Samuel Austin, Jun., Amos Binney, Charles Amory, Oliver Wendell Holmes.

Secretary, Henry Tuke Parker. *Librarian*, Charles Folsom.

Architects, Edward Clarke Cabot and George Minot Dexter.

JAMES KNOX POLK, President of the United States.

GEORGE NIXON BRIGGS, Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

JOSIAH QUINCY, JUN., Mayor of the City of Boston.

“The President then informed the Proprietors, that, with the preparations that had been made, the building would rise rapidly from its foundation, and that the committee cherished the hope of welcoming them within its walls within a twelvemonth ; and he then announced that the ceremonies of the day were completed.

“The day was fine, and the circumstances were favorable for exhibiting the beauty and advantages of the position that has been chosen.”

CHAPTER VIII.

PROGRESS OF THE INSTITUTION — THE EXTERIOR OF THE NEW BUILDING ERECTED AT AN EXPENSE EXCEEDING THE ESTIMATES — THE OCCASION OF THAT EXCESS — THE PRINCIPAL LIBRARY-ROOM ORDERED TO BE FINISHED, AND THE OTHER PARTS OF THE INTERIOR TO BE LEFT UNFINISHED — A PROJECT TO CONVERT THE ATHENÆUM INTO A CITY LIBRARY, DISCUSSED AND REJECTED — DEATH OF ENCOH HALE, ONE OF THE TRUSTEES — VOTE ON THAT OCCASION — PART OF THE LIBRARY OF WASHINGTON RECEIVED — THE MAIN LIBRARY-ROOM FINISHED, THE BOOKS REMOVED AND ARRANGED, AND ITS OCCUPATION AUTHORIZED — MEASURES ADOPTED FOR RAISING THE FUNDS NECESSARY FOR COMPLETING THE INTERIOR OF THE NEW BUILDING — THE DEATH OF JOHN BROMFIELD ANNOUNCED AND APPROPRIATELY NOTICED — THE SALE OF THE ESTATE IN PEARL STREET RATIFIED BY THE PROPRIETORS — COMMITTEE RAISED FOR OBTAINING THE NECESSARY FUNDS FOR FINISHING THE NEW BUILDING — THEIR REPORT — THANKS OF THE PROPRIETORS FOR THEIR SUCCESSFUL LABORS, AND VOTES PASSED FOR GIVING FULL EFFECT TO THEIR PROCEEDINGS — COMMITTEE RAISED, WITH AUTHORITY TO SELL NEW SHARES SUFFICIENT FOR THAT OBJECT, AND TO TAKE MEASURES TO COMPLETE THE NEW BUILDING.

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors in January, 1848, after the election of officers,* the Treasurer reported that the income of the last year, applicable to general expenses, was \$ 3,950.47

And the general expenses and books were 6,242.98

That the balance last year to the credit of the Fine Arts fund was \$ 1,307.43

That during the year 1847 there had been received 1,382.83

\$ 2,690.26

* Officers chosen in 1843. — *President*, Thomas G. Cary ; — *Vice-President*, John A. Lowell ; — *Treasurer*, Josiah Quincy, Jr. ; — *Secretary*, Henry T. Parker ; — *Trustees*, William T. Andrews, Edward Wigglesworth, Enoch Hale, George S. Hillard, Samuel Austin, Jr., Oliver W. Holmes, Charles Amory, John L. Gardner, and Henry B. Rogers.

Amount brought over,	\$ 2,690·26
That there had been paid the past year	1,298·07
Leaving a balance to the credit of the fund,	<u>\$ 1,392·19</u>
That the whole property of the Athenæum was	\$ 387,312·73
Real estate on Pearl Street	\$ 23,095·89
Estate on Beacon Street,	110,736·82
	<u>\$ 133,832·71</u>
Lecture-room,	15,550·82
Paintings, busts, &c., including the Orpheus,	19,921·63
Books,	65,257·77
Productive property,	152,749·80
	<u>\$ 387,312·73</u>
And that the Bromfield fund amounted to	\$ 25,838·34

By the report of the Treasurer it appeared, that there had been invested in books, from the proceeds of the Bromfield fund, the sum of \$ 1,454·53; and that these had been marked and kept as accruing from the liberality of the donor of said fund, agreeably to the vote of the Proprietors of the Athenæum.

The committee for examining the Library reported, that only twelve volumes were missing, most of which, it was hoped, would reappear, as was the case with several reported as missing the last year; and that the Library now contained at least forty thousand volumes exclusive of duplicates.

The committee on the Fine Arts reported, that an arrangement had been made with the Boston Artists' Association, and the exhibition, which had been made in conjunction with them, had produced a gross receipt of \$ 1,912·37

And the incidental expenses had been	1,185·00
Leaving a net balance of	<u>\$ 727·37</u>

Of which one half accrued to the Athenæum, \$ 363·68

At a meeting of the Trustees on the 10th of April the same year, the building committee reported, that the exterior of the new building had now cost \$ 70,000, and to complete the interior in a manner corresponding with what had already been done would cost \$ 50,000,—thus greatly exceeding the estimates; that the means appropriated for the building were

Subscriptions for new shares, after specified deductions, \$ 68,800·00

Actual profits on sale of land on Tremont Street, 20,342·79

Estimated value of land on Pearl Street, 50,000·00

Hospital Life Insurance policy \$ 20,000·00

Bank shares, 5,000·00

Notes, 600·00

25,600·00

\$ 164,742·79

Cost of land on Beacon Street, \$ 55,000·00

Expenditures on building, . 70,000·00

125,000·00

Remaining to complete the building, . . . \$ 39,742·79

The committee left it to the board to consider what course should be pursued, after stating that the work was done in the best and most substantial manner, and that the error had not arisen from having paid more than the work was worth, but from supposing that such a substantial and beautiful building could be erected for so small a sum as had been estimated. After deliberation it was voted, that an iron stair-case should be erected in the vestibule, and the principal library-room

be finished in the style and manner of the original design, and the other parts of the interior be left, for the present, wholly unfinished.

At a meeting of the Trustees, May 8th, 1848, a committee was appointed to consider what measures should be taken to obtain funds for the completing of the Athenæum building. This committee, in August, reported a plan by which the Trustees should recommend to the Proprietors, "that they should give to the public the use of the Library in as full a manner as it now is, or hereafter may be, enjoyed by the share-holders," — the City paying the sum of fifty thousand dollars on the first day of the next December, and annually, in quarterly payments, an additional sum of five thousand dollars, — the management of the Athenæum to be confided to ten directors, six of whom should be chosen by the Trustees of the Athenæum, and four by the City Council. The report was accepted by the Trustees, and a meeting of the Proprietors was accordingly held on the 24th of October, 1848, when the above-mentioned plan was proposed and discussed, and, on motion, the whole subject was indefinitely postponed.

At a meeting of the Trustees in November, the Librarian having laid before them a collection of rare and valuable Sanscrit and other Oriental Manuscripts, a donation from Theodore A. Neal, of Salem, the thanks of the board and the privileges of the Athenæum were voted to the donor.

At a meeting of the Trustees on the 11th of December, the death of their late associate, Dr. Enoch Hale, was announced, and a vote was passed expressive of their deep regret for the loss of a colleague "whose valuable assistance in the management of the affairs of the institution they have long enjoyed, and whose memory is cherished with affection and respect."

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors in January,

1849, all the officers of the last year were reëlected, except that George T. Lyman and William Lawrence were chosen Trustees in the places of Mr. Gardner, who had resigned, and Dr. Hale, who had deceased.*

The Committee on the Fine Arts reported that

the gross receipts from the exhibition for	
the preceding year were	\$ 1,182.87
And the incidental expenses,	757.76
Leaving a balance of	\$ 425.11
One half of which was paid to the Boston Art-	
ists' Association, and the other half to the	
Athenæum,	\$ 212.55

The committee on the Library made a highly satisfactory report, from which the following is an extract :

"The committee have great pleasure in being able to state, from the report of the Librarian, that the last year has been distinguished beyond all precedent in the history of the institution by the number and value of the donations made to the Library.

"First in importance is a collection of books which formerly belonged to Washington. Seventy gentlemen, of Boston, Cambridge, and Salem, by a subscription of \$ 50 each, amounting to nearly \$ 4,000, have secured to the Athenæum this treasure. The light in which they regard it, and the motives which animated them, will best appear from their own words.

"The greater number of these books,' they say, 'contain Washington's autograph. All which are so distinguished, and, next after them, those which were presen-

* Officers chosen in 1849. — *President*, Thomas G. Cary ; — *Vice-President*, John A. Lowell ; — *Treasurer*, Josiah Quincy, Jr. ; — *Secretary*, Henry T. Parker ; — *Trustees*, William T. Andrews, George S. Hillard, Edward Wigglesworth, Samuel Austin, Charles Amory, Henry B. Rogers, Oliver W. Holmes, George T. Lyman, and William R. Lawrence.

tation copies to him, and, next to them, those which contain his book-plate, or can in any other way be proved to have been in his possession, would be regarded, even in Europe, as curiosities of great interest and value, and would command prices which might seem incredible to one unacquainted with the sums given for objects associated with the memory of highly distinguished men.

“But by an American the collection should be differently estimated. To no country has its history left so valuable a legacy as we have inherited in the character of Washington. He stands alone among all the great men of the world, preëminent for his services to his countrymen, for his freedom from all sordid and selfish motives, for his elevation above ordinary human weaknesses, and for his thorough integrity and completeness of character. He rises higher in our estimation the better we become acquainted with history and with human nature. No other country can look back to a man who has left an example so excellent and so weighty, so adapted by its influence to promote all that is good.

“Of such a man all the relics should be venerated; and there can be few of more interest than the books which have been in his hands, and which are marked by his handwriting. Every tribute of respect paid to him is a tribute of respect to moral excellence, and a lesson to our posterity, teaching them our sense of its worth.’ *

“It should be remarked, that of these seventy benefactors, twenty-eight, contributing \$ 1,400, are not Proprietors, but friends of the Athenæum only as they are friends of learning, and of those high interests of the community,

* Printed circular letter, signed by Andrews Norton and Jared Sparks, two of the contributors.

which the Athenæum was intended, and is expected, to promote.*

“Another very important donation consists of a collection of beautiful Oriental Manuscripts, principally Sanscrit, presented by Theodore A. Neal, Esquire, of Salem. These were selected, at the request of the donor, by one of the most celebrated native scholars in Calcutta, and were copied under his learned superintendence, as interesting specimens of the literature of India, to those who seek to pursue Oriental studies in the Western world.

* Since the date of the above report, the number of contributors has been increased, and is to be further extended to one hundred, in order to procure a suitable case for these and other memorials of Washington, to put the binding of the books in perfect condition, and to pay for the printing of an appropriate descriptive catalogue of the collection. The list is now (1850) as follows :

CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PURCHASE OF THE WASHINGTON LIBRARY.

Israel Lombard,	William Bordman,	Charles E. Norton,
J. Ingersoll Bowditch,	Abbott Lawrence,	Samuel Batchelder,
Francis Bacon,	James K. Mills,	John C. Warren,
Jonathan Phillips,	George H. Kuhn,	David Sears,
Theodore Chase,	Edward H. Robbins,	Robert G. Shaw & Co.,
Thos. Wigglesworth, Jr.,	Jonas Chickering,	George W. Lyman,
Henry Lee, Jr.,	Samuel Austin,	Josiah Quincy, Jr.,
Charles Beck,	George M. Barnard,	Thomas B. Wales,
Ozias Goodwin,	William Perkins,	William T. Eustis,
Henry Lee,	John E. Thayer,	Daniel C. Bacon,
Andrews Norton,	Edward Austin,	Daniel P. Parker,
John P. Cushing,	Moses Grant,	George E. Ellis,
William G. Stearns,	Edmund Dwight, Jr.,	{ Joseph Iasigi &
Edward Everett,	John C. Gray,	{ George Parkman,
Jared Sparks,	Milton, Cushman, & Co.,	Edmund Dwight,
Daniel Austin,	James Lloyd,	John A. Lowell,
{ Nathan Rice &	John J. Dixwell,	C. Gayton Pickman,
{ John Ware,	Francis C. Lowell,	Z. Hosmer,
George Ticknor,	Thomas Lee,	Nathaniel Silsbee,
J. Davis, Jr.,	James Read,	George Peabody,
William S. Bullard,	Nathan Appleton,	Francis Peabody,
S. H. Bullard,	Amos Lawrence,	W. Neal,
H. P. Oxnard,	Thomas H. Perkins,	William Pickman,
Charles H. Mills,	Edward N. Perkins,	Daniel Webster,
William Appleton,	Benjamin D. Greene,	Samuel T. Armstrong,
Samuel Lawrence,	George Livermore,	Richard Fletcher.

“The Hon. Charles Francis Adams has recently presented the numerous and valuable pamphlets accumulated by his father, the late John Quincy Adams, to the number of between six and seven thousand, which go to enrich a department in which the Athenæum is perhaps unrivalled by any other Library in the country.

“Dr. Oliver Wendell Holmes has presented a valuable portion of the library of his father, the late Rev. Dr. Holmes, the annalist of America; and many others have made smaller donations, yet considerable for their number, or for the separate value of each book. A list of all the donors during the year is annexed.

“The total number of books given during the year is, of bound volumes 830, of pamphlets 7,393.

“The whole number of books purchased during the year is 3,346 volumes, and 11,000 pamphlets.

“Thus the increase of the Library in the past year has been 4,176 bound volumes, and 18,393 pamphlets or tracts.

“The number of volumes bound during the year is 1,115, beside a large number repaired.”

By the Treasurer's report, it appeared that the income the past year, applicable to general expenses, from all sources, including the Bromfield fund, amounted to \$ 10,048·46

And the general expenses and books were 6,276·84

That the balance to the credit of the Fine

Arts fund last year was . . . \$ 1,392·19

That there had been received the past year 1,182·87

\$ 2,575·06

And there had been paid . . . 1,067·92

\$ 1,507·14

That the whole property of the Athenæum

was . . . \$ 417,901·91

Real estate on Pearl Street	\$ 23,095·89
Do. on Beacon Street . . .	138,520·84
	<hr/>
	161,616·73
Lecture-room,	15,550·82
Statues, busts, &c., including	
the statue of Orpheus . . .	19,921·63
Books	68,803·23
Productive property, . . .	152,009·50
	<hr/>
	\$ 417,901·91
By the same report it appeared that the	
income from the Bromfield donation,	
during the past year, amounted to . .	\$ 2,167·93
Of which \$ 1,152·93 had been applied to	
the purchase of books, conformably to	
the terms prescribed by the donor; and	
the capital of the fund now amounted to	\$ 26,207·65

At a meeting of the Trustees in January 1849, the statue, in marble, of "The Backwoodsman," executed by Henry Dexter, was presented to the Athenæum, in the name of the following donors: — Samuel Appleton, Thomas H. Perkins, Abbott Lawrence, David Sears, Edmund Dwight, Nathan Appleton, William Lawrence, George W. Lyman, Samuel A. Eliot, George C. Shattuck, George C. Shattuck, Jr., Edward Brooks, John D. Williams, John Bryant, Jr., John C. Gray, John P. Cushing, William Appleton, Francis C. Gray, Jonas Chickering, and Josiah Quincy, Jr.; for which appropriate thanks were voted by the Trustees.

At a meeting of the Proprietors on the 9th of February, 1849, a committee which had been appointed by them at the preceding annual meeting, "to examine the financial and other affairs of the institution, the Treasurer and other officers being requested to afford such information as will en-

able them to report as to the history of the institution for the past two years, and its future course," made the report which follows.

"The Committee, appointed at the last annual meeting of the Proprietors, to examine the financial and other affairs of the institution, and to report as to its recent history and future course, offer the following

R E P O R T.

"The past history and immediate concerns of the Athenæum are so closely connected with the original design of its removal, and the consequences resulting from it, that the recital of the proceedings in relation thereto is rendered necessary.

"The first reference to the subject of a removal of the Athenæum was at a meeting of the Trustees, held June 11, 1843, when a committee was appointed 'to see if any thing can and should be done towards removing the Athenæum from its present position, to some place nearer the centre of the city.'

"October 9, 1843, this committee of the Trustees made a report to that board, in regard to a location for the Athenæum, and they were instructed to obtain a refusal of the lots of land in Tremont Street, and to obtain subscriptions, in case the refusal can be obtained.

"At the next annual meeting of the Proprietors, January 1, 1844, the above committee of Trustees reported, that they had obtained a refusal of the estate in Tremont Street, that the land and building will require about one hundred thousand dollars, which they are of opinion can be raised by sale of property belonging to the Athenæum, by subscription, and sale of new shares. It was accordingly '*Voted*, that the Trustees be authorized to take all necessary measures for the erection of a new building on the spot proposed, as soon as they are satisfied that the means can be obtained to complete the same without incurring a debt, or permanently diminishing the income of the Athenæum.'

"At a meeting of the Trustees, a few days after, January

8, 1844, a committee was authorized to purchase the estate between Tremont Street and Court Square, whenever they should obtain the assurance of raising a sum of money equal to 237 shares, at three hundred dollars per share.

“At the succeeding annual meeting of the Proprietors, January 6, 1845, this committee made a report, that they had purchased the Tremont Street estate for \$84,102, that the estimated cost of a suitable building was \$76,000, making \$160,102; — amount of available funds, new shares \$72,300, Pearl Street estate \$40,000, notes receivable \$28,000, making \$140,300; deficiency \$19,802. The erection of a building was then authorized by the Proprietors, ‘as soon as \$20,000 more can be raised by subscriptions, by sale of new shares, or other disposition of parts of the building to be hereafter erected.’ It was also ‘Voted, that the building committee be directed to cause to be prepared plans for the building, and that the same be submitted to a meeting of the Proprietors to be called for the purpose.’

“On the following 20th of May the plans were accordingly submitted to the Proprietors, at a special meeting; — resolutions were proposed with a view to an increased income, a warm and animated discussion followed, and finally the subject was referred to a committee of ten, with instructions to consider and decide upon the various plans submitted, and to report at a future meeting a plan for the Athenæum, and estimates for the expense of the same.

“The report of the committee of ten was laid before the Proprietors, at a meeting called for the purpose, June 24, 1845, and the Trustees were authorized to build on Tremont Street, according to the recommendations of the committee, whereby Mr. George M. Dexter’s plan was adopted, with the assurance of a greatly increased income.

“A few days subsequent, June 30th, in pursuance of the doings of the meeting of the Proprietors, a committee was appointed by the board of Trustees to solicit further subscriptions.

“At a special meeting of the Proprietors, called for the purpose, November 19, 1845, this committee reported that a suffi-

cient sum could not be raised to render it prudent to build on Tremont Street, and they recommended the sale of the Tremont Street estate, and the purchase of the estate on Beacon Street. This report was accepted, and the Trustees were authorized to sell the estate on Tremont Street, and buy the estate on Beacon Street. No authority was given to the Trustees, at this meeting or at any subsequent meeting of the Proprietors, for the erection of any building on the Beacon Street estate.

"This estate was purchased of Mr. Edward B. Phillips, December 1, 1845, for \$ 55,000,—\$ 15,000 cash, and the balance by note for ten years, secured by mortgage.

"The Tremont Street estate was sold to Mr. David Kimball, on the 20th of the same month, for \$ 109,221.25, payable \$ 10,000 cash 27th December, and by note dated May 1, 1846, on demand, for \$ 100,000, including \$ 778.75 interest, and secured by mortgage.

"The annual meeting of the Proprietors took place on the 5th of January following. At this meeting no report was made by the Trustees in relation either to the sale or the purchase, and no allusion was made to either subject.

"At a meeting of the Trustees, January 12, 1846, it was *Voted*, that the building committee consist of the President, the Vice-President, and the Treasurer, with Mr. Andrews and Mr. Amory, and that they be authorized to procure designs and take the necessary measures for erecting a suitable building for the Athenæum, on the land purchased in Beacon Street, with as much despatch as is consistent with the advantageous execution of the work."

"During the month of March following, three designs were offered to the Trustees, and that of Mr. Edward C. Cabot had been selected. Some concern was expressed for the disappointment of Mr. Dexter, who had sent in one of the designs, and it was proposed that he should be associated with Mr. Cabot in the execution of the plan offered. Mr. Cabot hesitated, and, when the suggestion was made that Mr. Rogers, an experienced architect, should be employed under his superintendence, it seemed

to him more satisfactory. His objections, however, were overruled, and it was agreed that they, Messrs. Dexter & Cabot, should carry on the business of architecture jointly for the period of three years ;— Mr. Cabot to attend principally to the office business and drawing, and Mr. Dexter to the out-door or construction part.

“ Arrangements were now made for the progress of the work, and, on the 10th of August, 1846, it was voted by the Trustees, ‘ that the Treasurer be authorized to pay such bills or drafts for the cost of erecting the new building on Beacon Street, as shall be presented to him by order of the architects, and sanctioned by the chairman of the building committee.’ ”

“ At the annual meeting of the Proprietors, January 4, 1847, the President read a statement of expense already incurred, amounting to \$ 12,499·13, and an estimate of cost to finish, being \$ 52,996·52, the two sums making \$ 65,495·65, about the amount of the original estimate by Mr. Cabot.

“ In relation to Mr. Cabot’s estimate it is proper to state, that, as he informs your committee, it was made with great care by Mr. S. C. Bugbee, an architect of this city, who expressed himself willing to contract for the erection and completion of the building for the amount named ; and Mr. Cabot has entire confidence, that the design, as presented by him, could have been executed within the estimate.

“ In the mean time the work advanced. Mr. Cabot made all the working plans which were used, or they were made under his direction. When completed, they were, as requested, handed to the mechanics, or to Mr. Dexter himself, who had, as he informs your committee, no detailed plans or specifications furnished to him, and no reference was had to former estimates of cost. No specific contracts were made with that care and attention, which the magnitude and importance of the work would seem to have demanded. Materials were ordered, or agreements made for their supply ; the work was engaged by the day, or proposals were made and accepted according to the discretion of Mr. Dexter, from whom, as he states, no

account of costs was rendered, or estimates asked for, till June, 1848, and who assured your committee, that, with the exception of the chairman of the building committee, they had then suggested to him the first and only inquiries in relation to the Athenæum.

“On the 27th April, 1847, the Corner Stone of the new building was laid.

“The difficulty of negotiating a mortgage for so unusual an amount as \$ 100,000, had rendered it necessary that the Treasurer should make use of his own credit, with that of the institution, in order to meet the increasing demands on him. Accordingly, at a meeting of the Trustees, November 8, 1847, on motion of Mr. Quincy, it was ‘ordered, that the Treasurer, Josiah Quincy, Jr., be authorized to give the note or notes of the Athenæum for any amounts that may be required for the erection of the new building on Beacon Street, and to negotiate and renew the same at pleasure ;’ also, ‘ordered, that the Treasurer, Josiah Quincy, Jr., be authorized to retain or pledge, as security, any of the property of the Athenæum now in his hands.’

“As the time approached for the annual meeting of the Proprietors, it was thought desirable to ascertain the amount of expenditures to the 31st of December, 1847. No regular meetings of the building committee had been held, nor had they, in any instance, during the past year, been officially called together. No definite idea could be formed, nor were the means afforded for any precise opinion, on the subject. Under these circumstances, it may be supposed that the statement laid before the Trustees, only a short time before the meeting of the Proprietors, 3 January, 1848, occasioned no small degree of surprise, when it appeared, that seventy thousand dollars had already been expended.

“No reference was had, however, nor any allusion made, to the subject, by the Trustees, at the meeting of the Proprietors.

“In the mean time, the demand for money had increased, and, some arrangement having become necessary, it was voted by

the Trustees, 14 February, 1848, 'that the Treasurer be, and he hereby is, authorized to take notes of Daniel Kimball, as collateral to his mortgage note for \$ 100,000, for such time or times as he may agree, and to transfer the same by indorsement: Provided, that the present security of the Athenæum shall in no way be diminished by such transaction.'

"Nine notes, signed by David Kimball, were in consequence given to the Treasurer, during the month of April following. These notes were drawn at six months from date, for various sums, in all amounting to forty thousand dollars, and payable to the Treasurer of the Boston Athenæum, by whom a receipt was given, in which it is stated, that said notes are to stand as collateral security for the note and mortgage now held by said Boston Athenæum for \$ 100,000 and interest, against said Kimball, and, moreover, that it is understood to be the intention of the Athenæum not to press said Kimball on his large note and mortgage, while he shall continue to meet punctually the notes this day given, and to keep down the interest. These notes have never been paid, but have been renewed and discounted, from time to time, with the indorsement of the Treasurer.

"When it was ascertained that the expenditures had so far exceeded the estimates, immediate measures had been taken to check the progress of the work, and, on the 10th of April, 1848, the President, as chairman of the building committee, laid before the Trustees a statement, showing 'that the exterior of the building has now cost seventy thousand dollars, and that to complete the interior, in a manner corresponding with what has been done, would require fifty thousand dollars more.' It was accordingly voted, 'that the building committee cause an iron staircase to be erected in the vestibule of the new building, and the library to be finished in the style and manner of the original design, leaving other parts of the interior wholly unfinished.'

"In compliance with the above vote, contracts were made for the completion of the library and staircase, and on the

20th of June, 1848, the result was as follows : \$ 73,678·99 paid and outstanding ; contracts to finish ' library and staircase, \$ 23,649·50 ; making \$ 97,328·49, commissions not included.

“ It was natural, however, that an earnest desire should exist, and that efforts should be made, to remove the obstacles in the way of a completion of the building. The Trustees, in consequence, voted, May 8, 1848, ‘ that the President and Vice-President be a committee to consider and report what measures it is expedient to take in order to obtain funds sufficient for the completion of the Athenæum building according to the original design of the same.’

“ August 14, 1848, the above committee laid before the Trustees a letter addressed by them to Josiah Quincy, Jr., Mayor, offering conditionally the free use of the Athenæum Library to the citizens of Boston.

“ This proposition, with the accompanying papers, having been laid before the Proprietors at a special meeting called for the purpose, October 24, 1848, the whole subject was indefinitely postponed.

“ A strong desire having been expressed by the Proprietors for further information, and no full exposition of the affairs of the institution having been made at the annual meeting, held January 1, 1849, a committee was then appointed for that purpose.

“ Your committee have thus recited the leading incidents in the recent history of the Athenæum.

“ As an important object of inquiry, they have turned their attention to the note of Mr. Kimball for \$ 100,000, secured by mortgage. It appears, that, although the Tremont Street estate had been sold on the 20th of December, 1845, the negotiation had been consummated, and the deeds to and from Mr. Kimball had been dated and delivered, 1st of May, 1846. On the same day Mr. Kimball was one of the parties to an indenture and trust deed, duly recorded, by which he conveyed the Tremont Street estate, subject to the mortgage of \$ 100,000, to Addison Gilmore and Ellis Gray Loring, in trust, as security for the pay-

ment of certain bonds, to the amount of eighty thousand dollars, and by which indenture he covenants to pay to said trustees, in addition to the interest on said bonds, the sum of fourteen thousand dollars per annum, in quarterly payments of \$ 3,500. This, it will be seen, is virtually an agreement on his part to appropriate the rents and proceeds of the estate to the gradual payment of a second mortgage, and thereby disqualify himself from the payment of any portion of his note on demand, secured by a first mortgage. This is the more to be regretted, as Mr. Kimball's mortgage would seem to have been eminently the means this institution should have relied on to pay off its heavy impending liabilities. And, so far as the above-mentioned covenant on the part of Mr. Kimball, added to the unusually large amount of the mortgage, may render its negotiation difficult, is the necessity increased of taking legal possession, under the mortgage note, as the only alternative in order to realize its payment.

“ The statement of the liabilities and resources of the Athenæum is as follows :

Notes Receivable.

Mass. Hosp. Life Ins. Co.,	\$ 20,000
David Kimball,	100,000
Sundry small notes,	800
	<hr/>
	\$ 120,800

Notes Payable.

To E. B. Phillips, due Dec. 1, 1855,	\$ 40,000
“ Th. Greenleaf, “ Mar. 10, 1853,	36,800
“ E. B. Phillips, “ on demand,	4,000
“ J. A. Lowell, “ Feb. 6, 1849,	6,000
“ T. Wigglesworth, “ 22, “	3,000
“ J. Quincy, Jr., “ “ 28, “	4,000
“ J. Quincy, Jr., “ Mar. 1, “	2,000
“ J. A. Lowell, “ “ 1, “	4,000
“ T. G. Cary, “ April 7, “	5,000
“ J. Quincy, Jr., “ “ 28, “	3,000

To J. Quincy, Jr., due May 1, 1849,	2,500
“ David Kimball’s notes, indorsed, negotiated, and proceeds realized by the Treasurer, due on or before 23d April,	40,000
	<u>\$ 150,300</u>

“ The *liabilities* of the Athenæum will thus stand:

Notes payable, as per schedule,	\$ 150,300·00
J. Quincy, Jr., Treasurer, balance of account,	3,516·66
Baring, Brothers, & Co.,	23 90
	<u>\$ 153,840·56</u>
To which add contracts payable in April and May,	17,149·50
Balance of commissions to architects,	1,750·00
“ to mechanics,	500·00
Estimated expenses, not included in contracts, with expenses of removing, furnishing, etc.,	4,559·94
	<u>\$ 177,800·00</u>

Available Means.

Real estate on Pearl Street, estimated	\$ 40,000·00
New England Bank, 10 shares,	1,000·00
Columbian Bank, 40 shares,	4,000·00
Notes receivable, as per schedule,	120,800·00
	<u>\$ 165,800·00</u>

“ From this statement it appears, that, on the contemplated removal to the new building, there will be a deficit, on work actually finished, of \$ 12,000

And to finish the edifice as originally intended, and as

is requisite for the purposes for which it was designed,

will require, as per estimate, 25,000

in addition to our present means. So that \$ 37,000 are required to complete the building, or \$ 12,000 to pay the actual debts, leaving the building in its present unfinished state.

“ It would also appear from these facts and estimates, that the estate on Beacon Street will have cost, on the completion of the building, \$ 180,000.

“Your committee are, however, under the impression, after conferences with Mr. Dexter and others, that \$ 35,000 would be a safer estimate for such completion, and that the ultimate cost of the estate will amount to \$ 190,000.

“This amount is larger than could have been anticipated, and, had it been foreseen, larger than our immediate resources would have warranted or could have justified. Nevertheless, it is gratifying to know that the work has been well done, with the best materials and in the most substantial and durable manner. And this elegant and costly edifice, when finished, will present a fine specimen of architectural taste, and one admirably adapted to the object designed, and worthy of the purposes to which it is to be applied.

“The Athenæum has always been a cherished object of interest. Among its earliest and best friends were numbered some of the brightest ornaments of our city, and their example and efforts have shed an influence, and awakened feelings, that have supported it in its earlier struggles ; while the unceasing efforts and munificent patronage of its friends at a later period have made it not less an object of just pride to our whole community, than of refined enjoyment to its immediate proprietors.

“To strangers it has afforded the best means of hospitality. Under the auspices of our valuable Librarian, and with the advantages of more liberal and suitable accommodations, the hope had been entertained that a new and auspicious era was about to open, while your committee are aware that their appointment has been dictated by a feeling of anxious interest, which has lately been awakened as to the future prospects of this valuable institution.

“Of that future they should have no distrust ; — all the resources of the corporation are under the control of those, whose judgment and experience will best teach them how to avail of them, and the deep interest they take in its concerns is best evidenced by the responsibility they have assumed.

“To the Trustees, therefore, the friends of the institution will

look with renewed feelings of interest, and with a confident hope, that their bold enterprise, commenced and carried on with that fearless independence and personal agency which looks mainly to the object to be accomplished, may result in a successful completion of their undertaking, without detriment to the important interests they were appointed to guard.

“All which is respectfully submitted.

CHAS. TORREY,
WM. ROLLINS,
E. H. ROBBINS,
FRANCIS B. HAYES.

“*Boston, Feb. 9, 1849.*”

“The above Report having been read, the President remarked that he felt bound, in justice to the gentlemen who had been associated with him, to state some facts, to the following effect, which should be understood in connection with the representations given in the Report, viz.

“The building committee had concluded, at the outset, that it was not best to put the whole building under contract, as that would preclude all alterations in the plan of structure which might be found advisable, and they considered it important that the work should be thoroughly done. But they had made a formal contract for the stone to be used, and agreed for the hammering of it at a fixed price. The bricks were to be laid by the thousand, being bought at the market price.

“There had been no neglect to hold meetings of the building committee at any time when such meetings were likely to have been of use. Such meetings had been frequent until the mode of proceeding with the structure had been carefully arranged, with such a system of checks in the disbursement of money as provided effectually against any misapplication of it, none having been paid without a warrant from himself as Chairman, and a voucher to the Treasurer from the mechanic to whom it was due. Subsequently to this arrangement, the Chairman (representing the committee) habitually conferred with the

architects, and consulted with the several members of the committee, whom he met at the monthly meetings of the Trustees and elsewhere.

“The committee were early aware that the cost must exceed the estimate given with the design by the architect, Mr. Cabot; having themselves concluded to authorize stone ends to the building, instead of brick, which was found necessary to prevent an awkward appearance from the probable removal hereafter of the houses on each side; and having authorized additional ornament on the rear, which proved to be more exposed to view than was anticipated. They felt, however, no serious uneasiness on that subject, having, by the purchase and sale of the estate in Tremont Street, added twenty thousand dollars to the fund appropriated to the building, and believing, from an opinion stated by the executive architect, Mr. Dexter, with whom the President, as Chairman of the committee, had two consultations on the subject as the work advanced, that the whole cost would not probably exceed the estimate that had accompanied his own design, that estimate having been eighty-five thousand dollars. This opinion was repeated by him (Mr. Dexter), but was founded on no accurate estimate, and was understood as no more than an approximation to the result.

“This belief was, however, thus entertained by the committee until the close of the year 1847, when Mr. Dexter was desired, by actual payment of all bills (as he had done the year preceding for the foundation), to ascertain the cost of the exterior which was then erected. He found, to his own surprise and concern as well as that of the committee, that it amounted to \$70,000, and that to complete the interior in the same style would require nearly \$50,000 more.

“These facts were not fully ascertained in season for a correct statement of them at the annual meeting, held in January, 1848. The general affairs of the community were then becoming very much depressed by financial difficulties; and the committee, expecting no aid from the shareholders under such circumstances, thought it best to make no communication of any

embarrassment, unless it should be called for, but simply to stop the work until they could make specific contracts for so much as they had the means to finish. That portion of the new building will be sufficient to receive the Library, and it will be ready for its reception in about two months.

“The above work being of the most substantial character, the committee find no reason to believe that it could have been as well done for materially less money than it has cost, or to regret that they did not act on the estimate of Mr. Bugbee, who probably thought of a building quite inferior to the one erected. That estimate was \$61,988, as presented by Mr. Cabot, who has since, in a detailed statement, estimated the cost of finishing the interior in a suitable manner at \$47,522. This would leave from Mr. Bugbee’s estimate only \$14,466 for the foundation and exterior, which is manifestly inadequate.

“In relation to the statement in the Report, that a committee of the Trustees had offered the use of the Library to the citizens of Boston, through the Mayor, the President remarked that this was a mistake, as the records would show; no offer of the kind having been made, and the facts in reference to that subject being these, viz.

“The Trustees were informed by the Mayor that the City had been authorized by the Legislature to pay \$5,000 annually for the support of a public library, and that probably this annuity and the sum of \$100,000 (which he supposed could be raised by subscriptions among citizens, not shareholders of the Athenæum) might be given to this institution to complete the new building, and provide for a great extension of the Library, on condition that the citizens generally should be admitted to all the privileges of the shareholders in the Athenæum. The Trustees declined to lay this proposal before the shareholders, regarding it as inadmissible.

“The Trustees were then desired, on the part of the City, to state what terms they would consent to lay before the shareholders for their consideration. To this it was replied, that, if they should receive an intimation or offer that the City would

furnish the sum of \$ 50,000 for the completion of the new building, and \$ 5,000 annually for the support and increase of the Library, as compensation for the admission of the citizens to the use of the Library only, without any privileges in the reading-room or otherwise, they would lay the subject before the shareholders for their decision on it. This was accordingly done; the shareholders decided not to authorize the arrangement; and, the Trustees having made no offer, nor committed themselves or the institution in any way, the matter ended there."

At a meeting of the Trustees on the 12th of February, 1849, the Librarian announced a large donation of books and pamphlets, and several curious and beautiful engravings, paintings, and busts, from the widow of Dr. Benjamin Waterhouse, being part of the library and collection of her deceased husband; whereupon was passed an appropriate vote of thanks to Mrs. Waterhouse for this munificent present.

In March, 1849, Mr. George C. Ward presented a fine cast of the celebrated "Venus of the Capitol," for which were voted suitable thanks.

At a meeting of the Trustees on the 9th of July, the building committee reported, that so much of the new building, as it was thought best to complete before occupation, would be entirely finished in the course of a month, and that, the books having been removed to it and arranged for use, the building would be forthwith opened for the Proprietors;—that the cost of the building, in its present state, had been \$ 104,296·28

That to complete it in a thorough manner
would require 24,842·00

\$ 129,138·28

The amount paid for the land was 55,000·00

Making a total, for the estate, of \$ 184,138·28

That the available funds and resources	
for the land and the new building were	\$ 159,742·79
And the cost of the building	
was at present, as above	
stated,	\$ 104,296·28
And of the land	55,000·00
	<hr/>
	\$ 159,296·28

Whereupon a vote was passed, calling a special meeting of the Proprietors, which was accordingly holden on the 27th of July, 1849, and a general statement of the cost of the building and the land, as well as of the available funds, was submitted, with a particular specification of facts illustrative of both. After debate a vote was passed, requesting the Trustees to consider, and report at a future meeting, such measures as they may deem advisable to raise the necessary funds for the uses of the Athenæum. At the same meeting the Trustees were authorized to sell the real estate in Pearl Street at such time, and in such manner, as they should deem most advantageous.

In conformity with the first of the preceding votes, the Trustees prepared a report, which they submitted to the Proprietors at a special meeting on the 29th of October ensuing, in the following words :

“ R E P O R T .

“ In accordance with the vote passed at the last meeting of the Proprietors, by which the Trustees were requested to consider and report such measures as they may deem advisable to raise the necessary funds for the uses of the Athenæum, and also to report what probability there may be that such measures can be carried out ; that subject has been referred to a committee of the board, and has received particular attention.

“The most obvious and convenient mode of raising funds appears to be, to obtain subscriptions for new shares, if possible, at the present subscription price of three hundred dollars. Although some gentlemen have recommended that the price should be reduced, it is, as yet, uncertain whether as much money would, on the whole, be obtained in that way ; and many are of opinion that it is best not to diminish the price.

“A commencement has, therefore, been made, and about thirty shares have been subscribed for at \$ 300 each, to be issued, if the proprietors shall authorize it. There is reason to expect that this list of subscriptions will be considerably extended ; but time is required to draw the attention of individuals to the subject, with suitable explanations, and it is not very probable that *any* plan can be carried very speedily into effect.

“There is, however, a favorable feeling in the community ; and a general belief is expressed, that in some way the means will be furnished to complete the building, and increase the funds as far as is necessary for the support of the institution.

“One gentleman has offered to the committee to be one of five who will take fifty new shares, if the number can be made up to two hundred shares, at \$ 300 each.

“Another gentleman has offered to be one of thirty who shall furnish the means to complete the building by each of them taking three new shares ; and a few other gentlemen have agreed to follow his example, if the others can be found.

“Several of the Proprietors, also, have expressed their readiness to submit to a voluntary assessment ; and there seems encouragement to believe, that, in this way, and with the subscriptions that can be obtained, a sum equivalent to two hundred new shares at \$ 300 each, or nearly so, may be raised at no distant period.

“ It is, therefore, recommended, as the plan for present action, that the efforts to obtain subscriptions for new shares at the present price should be continued ; and what probability there is of success may be inferred from what has been stated, the whole number of new shares that are agreed for, either with conditions or without, being thus far fifty-two.

“ Unless the Proprietors would recommend some different plan of proceeding, no action on their part seems to be required at present, except it might be to authorize the issue of a limited number of shares at \$ 300 each.

“ All of which is respectfully submitted.

“ For the Trustees,

“ THOMAS G. CARY, *President*.

“ *Boston, Oct. 29, 1849.*”

After consideration and debate, it was voted, “ that the Trustees be authorized to issue, as they may see fit, any number of new shares not exceeding two hundred, provided that the same shall not be sold under the present par value.” It was further voted, “ that the Trustees be requested to ascertain how many of the Proprietors are willing to assess themselves, and the probable amount which could be raised by such assessment towards paying off the present debt, and providing a fund for the future support of the Athenæum.”

In October, also, the Librarian announced to the Trustees a donation, from Miss Elizabeth P. Peabody, of a large and valuable collection of Polish books ; for which a suitable vote of thanks was passed.

At a meeting of the Trustees on the 10th of December, 1849, the recent death of the eminent benefactor to the Athenæum, John Bromfield, having been made known to the Trustees, it was voted, unanimously,

“ That the President be requested to inform the relatives

of the late John Bromfield, Esquire, that the Trustees have heard with much sensibility of the sudden death of a man so distinguished for the uprightness of his character and the generosity of his spirit, and whose munificent donation to this institution places him among the most distinguished patrons of literature whom this country has produced."

The letter of Mr. Cary, the President of the Athenæum, in which he communicated the above vote to Mrs. Anne Tracy, sister of Mr. Bromfield, and which was placed by the Trustees upon their record, contains the following personal tribute to his memory :

"In performing this duty, I avail myself of the opportunity to express the satisfaction with which I recur to a personal acquaintance with him extending over the greater portion of his active life, through which his keen sense of what is honorable and virtuous has ever been conspicuous.

"As one of those, too, who were charged with the application of his noble gift to the purpose intended, I am happy in a belief that he found new pleasure in witnessing the fruitful supply that it steadily furnished to the intelligence and happiness of the public."

At the annual meeting of the Proprietors on the 7th of January, 1850, on the suggestion of the President, a committee of seven was appointed to nominate a list of officers for the year ensuing. The list which they reported embraced the names of all the officers of the preceding year, excepting William R. Lawrence, who had resigned as Trustee, and whose place was now supplied by the choice of William Phillips.*

* Officers chosen in 1850. — *President*, Thomas G. Cary ; — *Vice-President*, John A. Lowell ; — *Treasurer*, Josiah Quincy, Jr. ; — *Secretary*, Henry T. Parker ; — *Trustees*, Charles Amory, William T. Andrews, Samuel Austin, George S. Hillard, Oliver W. Holmes, George T. Lyman, Henry B. Rogers, Edward Wigglesworth, and William Phillips.

The committee for examining the Library reported, that the removal of it to the new building was completed in the preceding July, with great care and success; that the finished hall contained about 40,000 volumes, and the unfinished rooms on the same floor about 10,000 more (supposing the pamphlets to be bound in volumes of a due size); and that the more accessible, convenient, and agreeable situation of the Library had given a new impulse to those who seek to increase it by donations from their own libraries.

The committee on the Fine Arts reported, that the usual annual exhibition had been omitted the last summer, and the opportunity embraced to have the pictures cleaned and repaired by competent artists, so that they were now in a better condition than at any former period; and that circumstances had as yet prevented the removal of the statuary, with the exception of the statue of Orpheus, which had been safely transported to the new building.

The statement of the Treasurer was also presented by that officer. It appeared that the income the past year, applicable to general expenses, had been . \$ 9,955·40

And the disbursements for general expenses 6,039·23

That the credit to the Fine Arts fund last year was \$ 1,507·14

That there had been paid this year 654·84

\$ 852·30

That the balance of the fund applicable to the new building, as by last year's statement, was \$ 13,207·71

That there had been expended this year 20,001·72

Leaving a deficit of \$ 6,794·01

That the whole property of the Athenæum was \$ 441,291·61

Real estate on Pearl Street, \$ 23,095·89
 Estate on Beacon Street, 158,522·56

\$ 181,618·45

Lecture-room, . . . 15,550·82

Paintings, busts, &c., including

the Orpheus, . . . 19,921·63

Books, . . . 70,316·21

Productive property, . . 153,884·50

\$ 441,291·61

That the Bromfield fund now amounted to 26,581·13

At this meeting the President stated, that the debts of
 the Athenæum amounted to . . . \$ 191,176·47

That the assets available to meet the above

were . . . 172,000·00

And the deficiency was . . . \$ 19,176·47

That, if this deficiency was provided for, the Athenæum
 would have the following property unencumbered, viz.:—

Estate on Beacon Street, at cost, . . \$ 158,522·56

Add outstanding bills, . . . 4,164·71

Library, at cost, without donations, . . 70,316·21

Pictures and statuary, do. do., . . 19,921·63

Bromfield fund for the purchase of books, . 26,581·13

\$ 279,506·24

At a special meeting of the Trustees on the 21st of February, 1850, an offer of Edward Brooks to purchase the estate in Pearl Street, for the sum of \$ 45,000, was read, and accepted by the Trustees, subject to the ratification of the Proprietors, a meeting of whom was called for this purpose on the 28th of the same month; when the President laid before them a statement of the affairs of the Athe-

næum, which had been previously sent to each Proprietor in a circular letter, of which the following is a copy :

“The Trustees of the Athenæum consider it a duty to call the particular attention of the Proprietors to the present state of the pecuniary affairs of the institution.

“At the last annual meeting, the Proprietors were informed by the President that the usual preparation of votes for the choice of officers, for this year, had not been made, the Trustees being desirous, that, after the important transactions attending the removal from Pearl Street under their direction, the choice should be wholly unbiased by any such preparation ; and he recommended that a committee of nomination should be appointed to prepare a ticket. This was done, and the members of the former Board were re-elected.

“They have made exertions to reduce the liabilities of the corporation by converting its assets into money and obtaining aid from the Proprietors ; and they have succeeded so far as to obtain an offer for the estate in Pearl Street at the price at which it was estimated. But, with the high rate of interest which has so long prevailed, they have not been able to succeed farther ; nor do they meet that cordial coöperation from Proprietors which is essential to success.

“While they are duly sensible of the favorable regard indicated by their reëlection, they apprehend that they do not possess the confidence of the Proprietors ; and they believe it to be for the welfare of the institution, which is in pressing want of aid, that they should resign the management to others who can obtain it.

“With these views, they have concluded to tender their resignations, and to call a meeting of the Proprietors, that there may be a new choice.

“ In the mean time they present for consideration the following statement of affairs.

S T A T E M E N T .

“ The DEBTS of the institution are as follows, viz.

Floating debt, consisting chiefly of notes given by the Treasurer and discounted at banks and through brokers, . . .	\$ 112,880-62
Outstanding bills for new building,	1,729-85
Loan from Thomas Greenleaf, Esq.,	36,800-00
Mortgage on estate in Beacon Street, due December, 1855, . . .	40,000-00
	<hr/>
	\$191,410-47

“ The ASSETS, to be applied to the above, are —

D. Kimball's mortgage on Land in Tremont Street,	\$100,000
Proceeds of estate in Pearl Street,	45,000
Investment in Massachusetts Life Insurance Office, . . .	20,000
Bank Stock, \$5,000; Railroad Stock, \$1,500; . . .	
Notes, \$500,	7,000
	<hr/>
	172,000-00
Deficit,	<hr/>
	\$ 19,410-47

“ This deficiency has been caused in part by heavy charges of interest, incurred in consequence of the difficulty which the Treasurer finds in obtaining cash for the mortgage of \$100,000 on the estate in Tremont Street, and may be increased alarmingly by the same cause. The security is unquestionable; but the amount is so large, that, with the high rate for money which has prevailed for two years, it cannot be disposed of. The interest on it is regularly paid. But the principal itself is wanted to pay off the debts of the institution; and, until this can be obtained, the only resource is to raise the same sum of money on disadvantageous terms where it can be found. If some of our wealthy Proprietors would lend any considerable portion of the \$100,000 at 6 per cent. interest, dividing the loan into small sums, and one of them holding the mortgage as trus-

tee for all, it would afford great relief. Some gentlemen have expressed their readiness to do so if a sufficient number can be found.

“To provide for the further wants of the institution, and to complete the building, the Trustees have been authorized to issue two hundred new shares at \$ 300 each. After considerable exertion, the Trustees have succeeded only so far as to obtain subscribers for seventy-five of these shares, and, most of the subscriptions being on the condition that a sum should be secured sufficient to relieve the institution from embarrassment, and finish the building, they are not yet binding.

“This would give	\$ 60,000
Of which there would be required —	
To provide for the deficit, say	\$ 20,000
To finish the building,	25,000
And there would remain, towards a fund for current expenses,	15,000
	————— \$ 60,000

“To place the institution on a proper footing, the fund for current expenses should be increased hereafter to \$ 50,000.

“Several of the Proprietors have expressed their readiness, in consideration of the great improvement of the property, to submit to a voluntary assessment of one hundred dollars on each share, provided one half of the Proprietors would agree to do the same ; and some names have been subscribed. But to effect the object, in either case, it is necessary that those of the Proprietors who have influence should take an active interest in the subject, and aid the Trustees, who may be chosen, in their exertions.

“If the debts were liquidated by disposing of the assets, and the deficit which has been mentioned were provided for, the institution would then have an unencumbered, permanent property of more than \$ 275,000, invested in a man-

ner peculiarly well suited to promote the objects for which it was established; viz.

"Estate in Beacon Street, amount paid for land and building,	\$160,957.42
Library, taken at cost, exclusive of donations,	70,316.21
Paintings and statuary, do. do.,	19,921.63
Bromfield fund for the purchase of books,	26,581.13

\$277,776.39

The value in 1844, when it was first proposed to remove
from Pearl Street, was 143,862.88

Showing an increase of \$133,913.51

"This has been obtained (excepting the munificent donation of Mr. Bromfield) chiefly by the exertions of those who have advocated and conducted the removal, with the assistance of gentlemen in various departments of business, who freely lent their aid in procuring subscriptions for new shares.

"This amount is not stated in money as proof of convertible value; but to show that there has been such an accumulation of property for the promotion of literature and the arts, as well deserves attentive care and further exertion.

"While the Trustees regret that any embarrassment should have arisen under their management, they have the satisfaction to be assured, that the materials and work in the new building are all worth the money expended on them, and that there is a favorable disposition in the community to aid in completing it.

"In some respects the institution appears to be particularly prosperous. Since the removal to the new building, it has gained new attention from the friends of literature and the donations of books increase in number and value. The annual subscriptions for the use of books are likewise increasing, and now yield an income equal to more than one third of the annual expenses. It is probable, also, that the

exhibition of pictures in the Spring will be more productive than others have been of late years. ' .

“ By a vote of the Trustees.

“ THOMAS G. CARY, *President*.

“ *Boston, 22 February, 1850.*”

At this meeting the Proprietors ratified the sale by the Trustees, to Mr. Brooks, of the estate in Pearl Street for \$ 45,000 ; and, at the suggestion of the President, they passed a vote tendering their thanks to Nathaniel I. Bowditch for his great kindness in rendering valuable legal services to the institution for several years gratuitously.

The President then, for himself and in behalf of the Vice-President and Trustees, tendered a resignation of their offices, and left the chair ; but, in accordance with the general expressed wish of the meeting, resumed it ; whereupon votes were passed, unanimously, that the resignation of the President and other Trustees *be not accepted*, and that they be requested to continue their valuable services during the term for which they were elected.

Whereupon, on motion and after debate, the Proprietors passed the following vote : — “ That a committee of fifteen Proprietors be appointed by the Trustees to aid them in raising funds to pay off the floating debt of the corporation, to finish the building, and to create a fund for the ordinary expenses of the institution ; and also that the committee have power to fill any vacancy that may exist in their number, and that they report at a meeting of the Proprietors to be held on the 28th of March.”

At a meeting of the Trustees, on the 1st of March, the committee of fifteen, as authorized by the vote of the Proprietors, were duly appointed.

At a special meeting of the Proprietors, holden, according to their vote, on the 28th of March, 1850, the commit-

tee of fifteen made, by their chairman, William H. Gardner, the following

“ R E P O R T .

“ The Committee, appointed by the Trustees of the Boston Athenæum, pursuant to a vote of the Proprietors at their last meeting, for the purpose of aiding the Trustees in raising funds for the institution, respectfully report as follows : —

“ They experienced, at the outset, great embarrassment from the apathy and disinclination to do any thing, which appeared to pervade the Proprietors. It was difficult even to obtain a sufficient number to act on the Committee. Of the fifteen gentlemen selected by the Trustees, there appeared at the first meeting of the Committee less than one half. Some peremptorily declined serving. Others took no notice of the invitation. Those who met concluded that it would be vain for so small a number to undertake the whole of a service which seemed so unpromising. They therefore filled the vacancies signified, and took the liberty, also, of extending to others an invitation to join them, which, if accepted, would increase the number to twenty-five.

“ At the second meeting, called upon this enlarged circle of invitation, the number who attended was no larger than at the first, and consisted mainly of the same individuals. Notwithstanding this discouragement, the members present proceeded again to fill such vacancies in the number of twenty-five as were positively announced, and agreed to attempt, by personal appeals, to secure the attendance of a larger number at a third meeting, if it were only for the purpose of consultation.

“ The third effort was so far successful, that about a dozen gentlemen were at last convened to consider what steps should be taken.

“ The result of the conferences at this and the previous meetings (founded upon a comparison of opinions among those present, and the reports from individuals of their conversations with other Proprietors) was the conviction, that a principal

obstacle to successful action by the Committee lay in the general dissatisfaction of persons interested in this institution, at its existing financial condition. The chief grounds of dissatisfaction appeared to be, not so much that the cost of the new building had exceeded expectations and estimates, as that a floating debt of \$ 112,000 had been suffered to accumulate, and to be maintained almost entirely by the issuing and renewal of notes at short time ; that, notwithstanding the gratuitous accommodation of the Treasurer's individual indorsement of these notes, the greater part of them had, of late, been negotiated, and, in the present state of the money market, must necessarily continue to be negotiable, only at high rates of interest, while the money was obtained upon the residue of these notes only through the friendly aid of individuals, on their own responsibility or private resources ; that, during the period in which this state of things had grown up, the corporation was holding, all the while, a note of \$ 100,000, payable upon demand, and adequately secured, as it was thought, by a valuable mortgage ; that, although interest upon that debt had been received from time to time, nothing had been paid on account of the principal, and no step was known to have been taken towards its eventual collection ; and that, in the mean time, a debt due from the same promisor to other parties, and secured by a second mortgage on the same estate, had been reduced, as was understood, \$ 45,000 within the last three years. It was true, that, by arrangements with Mr. Kimball (the promisor, who was liable on this note of \$100,000), accommodation paper of his, to the extent of \$ 40,000, was placed at the disposal of the Athenæum, and, with the indorsement of this corporation, and the private indorsement of its Treasurer, was negotiated and renewed at Mr. Kimball's expense, thereby relieving this corporation from the payment of extra interest on its floating debt to that extent. But this arrangement, it was urged, had no tendency towards final liquidation. If it did not rather complicate affairs by involving this corporation in the responsibility of an indorser of accommodation paper, it, at any rate,

did but substitute a liability in that form for a liability as a direct promisor, for moneys borrowed for its own use. It got rid of extra interest upon \$ 40,000 ; but, to the extent of about \$ 70,000, the floating debt was still maintained at the sole expense of this corporation (so far as extra interest was found unavoidable), notwithstanding that a sum of \$ 100,000, well secured, was justly due to it, and, in form at least, payable *on demand*. In this state of things it was objected by those who plainly expressed their dissatisfaction, that the Athenæum was in effect made to be a standing borrower of \$ 100,000, in the most disadvantageous form, and at any rate of the market, for the sake of lending a like sum to Mr. Kimball, for an indefinite term, at six per cent. Such an accommodation, in the past and present state of the money market, it was said, could not be maintained, except at great cost to somebody ; and that, although the greater part of the cost, under the actual arrangement, had in fact been borne by Mr. Kimball himself, still that a loss, by extra interest, to the extent of about \$ 3,500, had also fallen upon the Athenæum ; and that, in the language of the late circular of the Trustees, ‘ the deficiency in its funds may be increased alarmingly by the same cause.’

“ The expedient which had been suggested, of a loan by subscription on the security of an assignment of the \$ 100,000 note and mortgage, if such a loan could be obtained from persons friendly to the institution, seemed to many a mere temporary expedient, postponing the evil day of settlement. That it would take the Athenæum, for the time being, out of the money market, and probably relieve it from further loss in the payment of extra interest, was obvious. But it was said with truth, that the sums so borrowed would still be debts, to be repaid at some future day ; and that, when payable, the debt of \$ 100,000, due to the Athenæum, might still be uncollected and unreduced, with no time fixed for final liquidation, and no nearer visible approach to actual payment than exists now. The proposal was thus looked upon, by the numerous dissatisfied party, as a proposal for the borrowing of a large sum, from friends of

the Boston Athenæum, at more or less of inconvenience to them, for the purpose, in effect, of lending, or continuing a loan of the same sum, indefinitely, to a different institution, called the Boston Museum, which, however respectable and highly regarded by the public, the friends of the Athenæum were not, in that capacity, particularly bound to support.

“ Under these representations, your Committee did not think it incumbent on them, nor useful for any body, to investigate the circumstances which had led to so embarrassing a position. It was easy to see how a small beginning in the issue of temporary paper might well have been made, with a reasonable expectation on the part of the Treasurer, and of the Trustees, that he would soon find an opportunity to convert the large note and mortgage into more available assets, and that, while the unprecedented continuance of pressure in the money market was constantly disappointing this expectation, such a beginning would naturally and necessarily grow, without great fault imputable to any one, until the whole floating debt had come to rest upon short paper, and to be no longer manageable in that form. But, without stopping to inquire into the causes of that which was past and irremediable, your Committee thought, that their business was to look to the actual state of things, and that their first inquiry should be, whether any thing practical could be done, to amend them so as to remove the most pressing cause of existing dissatisfaction, in reference to the future ; and they had the pleasure to learn from the Treasurer, agreeably to his statement at the last meeting of the Proprietors, that no impediment existed, in consequence of any arrangement made by him with Mr. Kimball, to such course of action by this corporation, for the collection of the \$ 100,000 debt, as its true interests might seem to make expedient. And it was found from the records of the Trustees, that the vote of February 14, 1848, (a copy whereof is subjoined,) whereby the Treasurer was authorized to take and indorse the notes of Mr. Kimball, was founded upon the express condition, ‘ that the present security of the Athenæum shall in no way be diminished by such transaction.’ ”

“In this state of facts, your Committee were unwilling to take upon themselves the responsibility of recommending and urging upon others the proposed loan, at least as a solitary measure ; and they were equally unwilling to recommend it as one of a series of measures, unless they could see their way to a termination, at some time, of a system of mutual loans and accommodations between the Boston Museum and the Boston Athenæum, which seemed to them foreign to the purposes of the latter institution, and not tending to advance its interests upon a solid basis.

“The only effectual and final relief, which can be brought to the Athenæum, it was thought, must be by positive addition to its resources, either by absolute donation or by a sale of new shares ; and, it was only thought, that, so long as it could be justly complained that the existing assets of the corporation were not applied so effectually as they might be to the extinguishment of its liabilities, it would be quite useless, in the actual state of feeling on this subject, to solicit large contributions in any form from the present Proprietors, and still more so from persons having no immediate connection with the institution.

“The result of their deliberations, therefore, was a vote, recommending the Trustees to take such measures as might seem to them suitable for the peaceable and quiet foreclosure of the Kimball mortgage without delay ; and all further action of the Committee was postponed until some future meeting should be called in pursuance of some notice from the Trustees.

“A meeting was afterwards called, upon notice of a vote of the Trustees (of which a copy is hereto annexed), directing possession to be taken of the mortgaged premises, and appointing agents for that purpose. At the meeting called upon this notice, your Committee were pleased to learn, that a proposal had been received from Mr. Kimball, to give peaceable and quiet possession, and to accept a lease of the premises, as a tenant of the corporation, for the term of three years from the first day of April next, at a rent of \$ 14,000 *per annum*,

payable quarterly. The letter of Mr. Kimball containing this proposal is herewith submitted.

“The effect of this will be, after keeping down interest, to reduce the principal of the debt, by quarterly payments, about \$25,000 in the course of the three years, and to insure the probable realization of the residue at the expiration of that term, as the only means to prevent a final foreclosure of the mortgage. It may, perhaps, be realized at an earlier day, if Mr. Kimball should be enabled, as he hopes, to make some arrangement elsewhere for a loan of a larger sum.

“The Committee were of the opinion, that, considering the peculiar nature of the property mortgaged, this was, upon the whole, a satisfactory arrangement, and perhaps better than could be made with any other tenant.

“They were also informed, that the securities received in part payment for the estate sold in Pearl Street had been negotiated, and that the full value of that property was, or soon would be, realized in money, and made applicable to the extinction of debt.

“They learned from the Treasurer that he was provided with funds sufficient to meet the notes that would fall due in March, amounting to \$38,500, and that he would probably receive, from the proceeds of the negotiation last mentioned, enough to pay those which mature in April, amounting to \$14,000. In May, only \$7,000 fall due; in June, nothing; in July, \$7,000. In August and the early part of September, the remainder of the short paper matures, amounting to \$43,000. But some \$15,000 or \$20,000 of this short paper is in friendly hands, from whom further indulgence may be expected, if needful. Under this improved aspect of affairs, the Committee thought that they could see their way to proceed with advantage. The chief cause of dissatisfaction seemed to be removed; and the financial arrangements to be put on a footing which would meet the difficulty so far as means went. The Committee, therefore, thought they might safely give reasonable assurance to persons invited to aid, that the

raising of a certain sum would effect the threefold object of relieving the institution from all embarrassment of debt, completing the present building within a reasonable time, and providing a fund adequate to yield a small income for current expenses. The minimum needful for these objects, they estimated, as the Trustees do, at \$ 60,000 ; and the best mode of raising it was, in their judgment, one of the modes indicated by the Trustees, namely, the issuing of two hundred new shares, at the par of \$ 300 a share, to such persons as might be willing to purchase them at that price. A subscription, in that form, had already been opened by the Trustees, and some progress made. The Committee considered it the best form, because they were of opinion, that all who subscribed, if the object were accomplished, would have, in their shares, a property *intrinsically* worth, as property, much more than it cost. If the subscriber for a share should choose to part with it soon, at its market price, it was thought that he would be, in effect, a donor to the Athenæum of little more than the \$ 100 which had been proposed as a voluntary assessment ; and, if he should hold it until the whole object of the subscription were accomplished, the Committee believed that he would, by that time, be able to part with it without any considerable loss, and it would not be surprising if the shares should eventually be worth, in the market, even more than their cost, considering the personal advantages which attach to them, in addition to the intrinsic value of the property.

“ But to proceed on safe and satisfactory ground, they deemed it indispensable that this entire sum should be raised. They were of opinion that nobody ought to be asked to contribute any thing, unless the placing of the institution on a creditable foundation could be really effected, with reasonable certainty ; and, believing the sum of \$ 60,000 adequate to that end, though by no means all that would be desirable, they concluded to open subscription papers for new shares, upon the terms adopted by the Trustees, with this addition, — ‘ on condition that no subscription be binding, unless two hundred shares in the whole be subscribed for.’

“ The delays occasioned by the difficulty, in the outset, of getting a committee willing to serve, by the suspension of action to await the negotiations with Mr. Kimball, and by other preliminary arrangements, have left to your Committee but a very few days preceding the meeting to act in. They have the satisfaction, however, to report successful progress thus far.

“ Many of the individuals most likely to subscribe have not, as yet, been invited ; there has not even been opportunity to see all the Proprietors ; but, of the 200 shares offered, 164 (including the subscriptions obtained by the Trustees) have been already taken. The number obtained by the Committee has been 96 ; which has, perhaps, been doing as well as could have been expected from so small a committee in so short a time.

“ Your Committee are encouraged to believe, therefore, that, with the hearty support and coöperation of the Proprietors, according to their ability, purchasers will be found for the whole number in good season to meet the necessities of the corporation. But your Committee desire to have it distinctly understood, that, in their opinion, the object cannot be accomplished, or at least not without great procrastination, in which there is much danger, unless the Proprietors themselves, generally, lend such aid as they reasonably can. It is difficult to answer to strangers the objection, plausible at least, that it belongs to the Proprietors of the property, themselves, to free it from its embarrassments ; and, unless some good part of the work be done by them, it will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, to induce others to do it. When this shall have been accomplished, persons now unconnected with the institution will be the more readily induced to furnish means, from time to time, for those enlargements of the Library and of the collections in the Fine Arts, and of the facilities for their use, which still will be desirable, and for which a demand, from time to time, ought constantly to grow, commensurately with the growth of a cultivated people. The point now sought to be reached is not development and growth, but mere preservation, including what is necessary to make that which has been undertaken useful and

respectable according to its present limited scale ; and, if enough of aid to furnish means for the liquidation of debt is not obtained in some form, within a short time, what is the alternative ? Your Committee confess that they see none, except to stop all current expenses, shut up the building, and suffer as much of the property, as may be needful, to be taken for the payment of creditors and the relief of the Treasurer from his personal liabilities for the debts of the Athenæum. Whose business is this, if not that of the owners of the property ?

“ In conclusion, the Committee beg leave to express their unanimous opinion, that, so far as means will permit, all discounted notes and notes on short time ought, if possible, to be paid without renewal, and as fast as they fall due. To facilitate this object, they respectfully recommend, if there be any vote, as has been suggested to them, by which the Trustees were formerly restricted from withdrawing, and using in the payment of debts, the invested fund of \$ 25,000, that the same be now reconsidered ; and that, whensoever the subscription for 200 new shares shall be filled, the Trustees be thereupon authorized, at their discretion, to sell any stocks, or other property, composing the fund of \$ 25,000, or otherwise to convert them into available assets, in season to meet the notes of the institution as they mature. They recommend this only on condition that the subscription be filled, because, in that event, the course for the extinction of debt, as well as the attainment of the other object, is clear ; and otherwise, unless some better scheme of relief than that of the Committee shall be devised and made effectual, the condition of the corporation, with all its property, is likely to be one of bankruptcy.

“ For the Committee,

“ W. H. GARDINER, *Chairman*.

“ *March 28, 1850.*”

This report having been read and considered, the Proprietors voted, “ That, whenever the subscription for two hundred new shares shall be filled, the Trustees be thereupon

authorized, at their discretion, to sell any stocks or other property composing the invested fund of the Athenæum, of twenty-five thousand dollars, or otherwise to convert the same into available assets, in season to meet the notes of the institution as they mature.

“Voted, That the thanks of the Proprietors be given to the Committee for their zealous and effective labors, and that they be requested to continue their exertions until they shall have made such further provision for the wants of the institution as they may deem necessary.”

An adjournment was then voted for four weeks. Accordingly, on the 25th of April, another meeting of the Proprietors was held, at which William H. Gardiner, as Chairman of the Committee, made a further report, as follows :

“REPORT.

“The Committee, appointed to aid the Trustees in raising funds for the Boston Athenæum, have the satisfaction to report, that they have been so far successful as to have obtained subscriptions for a sufficient number of new shares to make up the minimum proposed, and bind the whole subscription.

“The number of shares now agreed to be taken, — including subscriptions formerly obtained by the Trustees, from persons who have expressly assented to the variation of terms contained in the subscription books opened by the Committee, — is two hundred and eleven.

“The names of the subscribers, and the number of shares taken by them respectively, are contained in a list herewith presented.

“The Committee are of opinion, that the present amount of subscription by no means exhausts the liberality of the public towards this institution, but that many other persons will be found ready and willing to take shares upon being satisfied of the fact, that the financial arrangements, and means provided,

are such as will effectually relieve the institution from all liability to creditors, and from all hazard of loss. The dissatisfaction, at first encountered, has been in a great degree overcome; and it is thought that an assurance may now be safely given, that the amount already subscribed, when collected, will, with the other available assets of the corporation, be fully adequate to answer the primary object of immediate relief, and also to complete the present building according to its original design, and to leave a small surplus, as a fund for current expenses. This surplus, however, will, in the opinion of your Committee, be very insufficient to maintain the institution as such an institution ought to be maintained. They propose, therefore, if the Trustees and Proprietors should concur in this opinion, that the subscription books should remain in the hands of the Committee, open to further subscription, until the next annual meeting of the Proprietors, by which time it is hoped that such a fund may have been accumulated, as will reasonably satisfy every want of the Athenæum upon its present scale of usefulness.

“Your Committee, therefore, not proposing at this time to surrender their subscription books as closed, unless the Proprietors should so elect, yet considering it to be highly important that the Trustees should be furnished with means to meet debts, about to fall due, without waiting for the closing and final surrender of the subscription books, took into consideration the most convenient mode of accomplishing that object, while the subscription should be still going on, and the business remaining unfinished in charge of the Committee. It was found that an arrangement might be made with one of their own number, if it should be approved by the Proprietors, whereby, without impediment to the further action of the Committee, subscriptions already made might not only be collected with great convenience to most of the subscribers; and no expense to the corporation, but might also be placed at interest from the moment they were received, and remain so, while lying subject to the call of the Trustees, upon demand.

“This arrangement seemed to the Committee an advantageous one for all parties. The gentleman, to whom they refer as willing to make it, is Mr. John E. Thayer, whose single exertions in this good cause have already brought in, from the extensive circle of his business acquaintance, a very large proportion of the whole number of subscriptions obtained, and promise to bring in a considerable further addition. Your Committee doubt, whether any other gentleman, of equal responsibility as a depositary, would be willing to take the trouble and inconvenience of collecting and holding the moneys till called for, on terms so favorable to the pecuniary interests of the Athenæum; or whether any can be found, whose position and office arrangements would enable him to transact this business of collecting in dribblets, and allowing interest upon them, with so much facility to himself, and to most of the subscribers.

“The Committee, therefore, at a recent meeting, passed the following vote.

“ ‘Whereas it appears, that a sufficient number of new shares in the Boston Athenæum has now been obtained to authorize collection, and that Mr. John E. Thayer, who has obtained a much larger number of subscribers than any other member of this Committee, has kindly consented to act, in behalf of the Committee, in collecting the amounts subscribed, without charge or expense, and to hold all sums collected, payable to the order of the Trustees, upon demand, allowing interest thereon at the rate of six per cent. per annum, from the time of their reception, so long as they may remain in his hands;—

“ ‘Voted, That the Trustees be requested to ratify this arrangement, and to cause proper certificates of shares to be filled up with the names of the subscribers, and to be deposited with Mr. Thayer for delivery, when and as they shall be fully paid for.’

“This vote was passed under the idea that the whole subject of raising and realizing the requisite sum had been placed by the Proprietors in the hands of this Committee, acting concurrently

with the Trustees. This view was in accordance with the tenor of the resolutions proposed by the gentleman on whose motion the Committee was originally appointed ; and these resolutions were understood to have been adopted by the Proprietors in substance, though not in form. A doubt has since suggested itself, whether it was the intention of the Proprietors to commit any thing further than the mere soliciting of subscriptions up to the time of this adjourned meeting, and whether, that purpose being accomplished to the extent above stated, the Committee have now any thing more to do, than to surrender the books, and ask for a discharge. As the terms of the vote, finally adopted in the appointment of the Committee, are extremely general, and its members have no desire to enlarge the commission intended, or to ‘ magnify their office,’ they respectfully submit this matter to the consideration of the Proprietors.

“ The Committee further report, that very many of the subscribers have subscribed upon an understanding, not expressed in the written terms of the subscription, that their moneys shall be so applied as to insure the early completion of this building, in a style conformable to its general design and the execution of the work thus far. From this consideration, and with the view, also, to allow of the investment of funds, from time to time, by order of the Trustees, whenever it shall be deemed advisable to invest them in any other form than is above proposed, the following vote was passed by the Committee, which they also submit to the consideration of the Proprietors.

“ ‘ Voted, That the Trustees be further requested to set aside, out of the moneys collected, as a specific appropriation for the completion of the building now occupied by the Boston Athenæum, such sum as they shall find to be needful therefor, not exceeding the sum of \$ 30,000 ; and that, until the building is completed, the same shall be drawn for no other purpose, except such safe investment as the Trustees may order ; and that the residue of the moneys collected, together with all other available funds of the corporation not held for specific trusts, be

appropriated by the Trustees exclusively to the payment of its existing debts, as fast as they fall due.' .

"Finally, the Committee recommend, that, if there be any question respecting a limit to the number of new shares, authorized to be issued by the former votes of the Proprietors, all doubt upon this subject be removed by an express vote, imposing no other limit than that which may arise from a full satisfaction, in the opinion of the Trustees, of the wants of the institution, in respect to an adequate fund to place it on the most creditable foundation.

"For the Committee,

"W. H. GARDINER.

"April 25, 1850."

After this report had been heard by the Proprietors, it was unanimously

"Voted, That the report be accepted, and the votes therein proposed for the acceptance of the Proprietors be adopted.

"Also, Voted, That the Trustees be authorized to issue as many new shares as the Committee shall obtain subscriptions for during the year, and as the Trustees may deem it for the interest of the institution to issue.

"Also, Voted, That the thanks of the Proprietors be given to the Committee for their very successful labors."*

* The following are the names of the acting Committee :—

William H. Gardiner, *Chairman*.

J. Ingersoll Bowditch,

Gardner Brewer,

William S. Bullard,

Edmund Dwight,

Franklin Haven,

Peter T. Homer,

Charles Hamilton Parker,

William Rollins,

G. Howland Shaw,

John E. Thayer,

William Thomas,

Charles Torrey,

George B. Upton,

Charles E. Ware.

CHAPTER IX.

MEASURES ADOPTED BY THE TRUSTEES FOR CARRYING INTO EFFECT THE VOTE OF THE PROPRIETORS RELATIVE TO NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS, AND FOR COMPLETING THE ATHENÆUM BUILDING — PLANS, BY MR. BILLINGS, OF A CHANGE IN THE VESTIBULE PROPOSED — THE TRUSTEES OF THE STATE LIBRARY PERMITTED TO DEPOSIT BOOKS IN THE ATHENÆUM — PLANS, SPECIFICATIONS, ESTIMATES, AND PROPOSALS FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE BUILDING SUBMITTED — REPORT THEREON — MR. BILLINGS'S PLANS AMENDED, LAID BEFORE THE TRUSTEES, AND ACCEPTED — FINAL REPORT THEREON — ACCEPTANCE OF THE PROPOSALS OF THEOPHILUS BURR — THE PRESIDENT AUTHORIZED TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH HIM FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE BUILDING, AND THE STANDING COMMITTEE CHARGED WITH THE DIRECTION OF SUCH REMOVAL OF THE PROPERTY IN IT, AS MIGHT BE NECESSARY DURING THE PROGRESS OF THE WORK — CONCLUDING REMARKS.

AT a meeting of the Trustees on the 30th of April, 1850, it was voted, "that proper certificates of shares be filled up with the names of the new subscribers, and deposited with Mr. John E. Thayer, for delivery when they shall be fully paid for;" and he was authorized to call in the instalments in conformity with the terms of the original subscription. Mr. Thayer was also requested to set aside, out of the moneys collected, a sum not more than thirty thousand dollars, nor less than twenty-five thousand, as a specific appropriation for the completion of the building; and, until this event, it was to be drawn for no other purpose, except for such safe investment as the Trustees might order. A vote was then passed, appointing a committee of the board to dispose of the stocks and other property of the Athenæum, composing its invested fund of twenty-five thousand dollars, in conformity with the vote of the Proprietors; and

the President, Mr. Rogers, and Mr. Andrews were appointed a committee to obtain plans, specifications, estimates, and proposals for the completion of the building, and to report the result to the Trustees.

At a meeting of the Trustees on the 10th of June, thanks were voted to Franklin Dexter for his kindness in arranging the Allston Gallery, and for other valuable assistance rendered to the Committee on the Fine Arts; and a similar acknowledgment was made to Charles Amory, Chairman of that Committee, for his valuable services in collecting and arranging pictures for the annual exhibition.

At a meeting of the Trustees on the 8th of July, the President, in behalf of the committee appointed to obtain plans, specifications, estimates, and proposals for the completion of the building, submitted designs from Mr. Billings, for a total change of the vestibule by removing the staircase to the west room (intended heretofore for a reading-room) and to the rooms over it, with estimates; but, as the committee were not yet able to make a final report, the subject was postponed for the future decision of the board. At a meeting of the Trustees, on the 12th of August, the same committee having reported that no estimate on the plans of Mr. Billings had yet been obtained so low as the limit fixed by the Proprietors for the completion of the building, at their suggestion the subject was again postponed for decision.

At this meeting the Secretary read a letter, addressed to Mr. Folsom, the Librarian of the Athenæum, by Joel Giles, one of the Trustees of the State Library; expressing, in their behalf, their desire "to transfer a selection of the books to the Athenæum, if it can be done, to make room for other works more in keeping with the special character of the State Library;" and making the inquiry, "whether the Athenæum would receive, from time to time, books from the

State Library, to remain at the risk of the State, and to be used according to the rules of the Athenæum, in common by those who would have a right to use them in the State Library." Whereupon a vote was passed, "that the Secretary be directed to reply respectfully, on the part of the Trustees, to the inquiry of the Trustees of the State Library, that the Athenæum will receive books from the State Library on the terms stated in Mr. Giles's letter, which shall form a part of the record of this meeting."

A letter was received from Charles B. Wells, stating that, in compliance with the wishes of the late Miss Caroline Doane, he presented to the Athenæum a crayon drawing, by Cheney, of Miss D. L. Dix; and also a bronze medal, given by Napoleon Bonaparte to General Grouchy, and by him to the late Isaiah Doane.

A letter was also received from E. S. Ritchie, asking the Athenæum to accept an accompanying cast of a bust of General Cass, by T. D. Jones, of Cincinnati.

Votes were accordingly passed, making appropriate acknowledgments to Mr. Wells and Mr. Ritchie.

At a special meeting of the Trustees on the 28th of September, the committee on the subject of the completion of the building submitted to the board the following report, accompanied by six distinct plans.

" R E P O R T .

"The Committee appointed by the Trustees, at their meeting on the 30th of April last, to obtain plans, specifications, estimates, and proposals for the completion of the building, and to report the same at a future meeting of the Trustees, now report :

"That since their appointment they have held numerous meetings, and had frequent consultations with architects on the subject committed to them, and have given it unremitting

attention. They were in hopes of obtaining a design for some alteration of the building that would remove all objections to the present entrance without exceeding the cost of \$ 25,000, for which amount they had supposed, from the estimates previously made, that the whole might be finished. Although the Proprietors had appropriated the sum of \$ 30,000 for the object, the Committee were anxious that the whole of this sum should not be used, if it could be avoided; and at any rate that it should not be exceeded. Their caution on this point has caused an unexpected delay; but they now submit, as the full result of their efforts, the following:

“ 1st. A sketch for an alteration of the vestibule, prepared by Mr. Hammatt Billings, and recommended by him as the best that could be adopted, because it makes the least change of the original design, while it gives the necessary additional light. It leaves the floor over the entrance undisturbed, supporting it by an arch instead of the dome. It was supposed by Mr. Dexter, acting as our architect, that the cost of finishing in this mode would be about \$ 30,000.

“ 2d. Another sketch, by Mr. Billings, made at the request of the Committee, to show the effect of an opening through the floor from the bottom to the top of the building, but not recommended by him. This is accompanied by a plan of some additional alterations proposed by Mr. Dexter, and an estimate prepared by him, showing that the cost of finishing with this design would be \$ 29,424, commissions not included. Mr. Dexter was of opinion, that the cost of finishing by the first sketch would exceed this sum.

“ 3d. A sketch, with an estimate, by Mr. George Snell, for an alteration of the vestibule by an opening through the floor and a double staircase throughout; but not giving more light to the stairs by the increased expense, than can be obtained with the staircase as it is, and the removal of a small part of the wall only.

“ 4th. A design by Mr. Billings, and a complete set of elaborate drawings of plans and sections, with an estimate; by

which it appears that the whole staircase may be removed from the vestibule to the adjoining western apartment, with little sacrifice of room on the whole, and at a cost of about \$ 30,500, commissions not included.

“ The foregoing designs have all been laid before the Trustees at successive meetings, when this Committee have, from time to time, reported progress. They now submit further :

“ 5th. A design for giving more light and a more ornate finish to the staircase, by Mr. Paul Schultz, with drawings. In mode and effect this is a near approach to the first sketch of Mr. Billings.

“ 6th. A design by our architect, Mr. Cabot, proposing an alteration of the vestibule, by removing the dome and most of the wall, and substituting a groined arch, which would give more light than either of the designs already mentioned as adapted mainly to the same object ; and altering the upper staircase so as to make it single throughout, and avoid any interference with the front window. An offer has been made to the Committee by a respectable mechanic to complete the whole building in conformity with this design, and in keeping with the parts already finished, for a sum not exceeding \$ 25,000.

“ The designs are all submitted for the examination of the Trustees ; and the Committee recommend, that one of them be selected, and offered among trustworthy mechanics for contract, that the lowest terms may be obtained.

“ All which is respectfully submitted.

“ For the Committee,

“ THOMAS G. CARY, *Chairman*.

“ *Boston, September 28th, 1850.*”

The meeting not being a full one, it was adjourned till the 5th of October, when the six plans for finishing the building, and the final report of the committee, were examined and discussed, and a further consideration of the subject was postponed to the next regular quarterly meeting, which took place on the 14th of the same month. The ex-

amination and discussion being then renewed, on motion a vote was passed, that the plan of Mr. Hammatt Billings should be adopted. It was further voted, that the President and Messrs. Andrews, Rogers, and Hillard be a committee to consult with Mr. Billings concerning alterations in his plan, and to submit the same, as amended, to mechanics for estimates on the specifications.

On the 29th of November, at a special meeting of the Trustees, the committee appointed to submit the amended plan for the completion of the building to mechanics, for estimates on the specifications, made the following

“REPORT.

“The Committee appointed by the Trustees at their quarterly meeting, October 14, 1850, consisting of the President, Mr. Rogers, Mr. Hillard, and Mr. Andrews, to take the necessary measures for making a contract to complete the building in Beacon Street according to the principal design of Mr. Billings for the entrance and stairs, met at the office of Mr. Hillard, in pursuance of notice, on the 15th of October, at 11 o'clock A. M. Present Messrs. Hillard, Andrews, and Cary. The President, acting as Chairman, reported that he had conferred with Mr. Cabot, who had expressed his readiness to act, still, as the architect of the building, and superintend the completion of it, adopting the changes recommended by Mr. Billings, whose design he approved and considered an improvement.

“It was thereupon voted, That the Chairman be authorized to instruct Mr. Cabot to proceed with all convenient despatch, and obtain estimates from several other mechanics (not exceeding four), besides Mr. Dupee and Mr. Burr, founded on such curtailments of ornament, to be made on consultation with Mr. Billings, as may be required to bring the cost within the sum of \$ 30,000.

“The Chairman was also desired to inform Mr. Rogers of this proceeding, that he might make any such suggestion of

changes in ornament, or other matter of detail, as he should recommend.

“ It being understood that Mr. Cabot executes this design and completes the building without any further compensation than the balance of \$ 475, which remains due to him under the compromise made with the architects, it was suggested by Mr. Hillard, that it would be proper hereafter, on the satisfactory completion of the work, to make him some further compensation.

“ The meeting was then dissolved.

“ A note was addressed to Mr. Rogers, in conformity with the above.

“ Nov. 25th, 1850. A meeting was held at the office of the Chairman, who reported that Mr. Burr had offered to complete the building on Mr. Billings's plan of alterations, for \$ 29,000, provided the offer be accepted now, and that no other estimates should be called for.

“ Present the Chairman, Mr. Rogers, and Mr. Andrews ; Mr. Hillard being absent, but having previously agreed to accept Mr. Burr's proposal.

“ Mr. Cabot was present with detailed specifications of the plans, and with supplementary drawings, &c., and explained to the Committee in what particulars he had varied from Mr. Billings's design.

“ Whereupon it was voted unanimously, that the Committee will recommend to the Trustees to conclude a contract with Mr. Burr for the whole work on the terms proposed, and that a meeting of the Trustees be called for Friday next, at 5 o'clock, P. M.

“ Voted, that the Chairman be authorized to approve Mr. Billings's bill for \$ 600, and cause it to be paid.

“ Adjourned.

“ All which is now submitted to the Trustees by the Committee as their report of proceedings.

“ THOMAS G. CARY, *Chairman*.

“ *November 29th, 1850.*”

This report, having been read and considered, was accepted by the Trustees; the President was authorized to execute a contract with Theophilus Burr for completing the building in conformity with the specifications, on the terms proposed; and the Standing Committee were charged with the direction of such removal of the property in the building, as might be necessary for its safety during the progress of the work. The Treasurer, also, was authorized to pay bills or orders for the cost of completing the building according to the contract, when certified by the architect, and approved by the President.

With these votes and proceedings the records of the institution, at this period, close. By them it appears that the Athenæum, through the zealous and faithful exertions of its Trustees and Proprietors, aided by the enlightened and liberal spirit of the citizens of Boston and its vicinity, has been raised to a position, in point of property and accommodation, adequate to its chief immediate wants, and to every reasonable expectation of its friends and the public. The difficulties which retarded its progress have been surmounted. Funds sufficient to discharge all its debts and liabilities, and to finish the building on the plan on which it was originally commenced, have been obtained. The institution is, therefore, at this moment, in a highly honorable and satisfactory state. All its debts and liabilities are paid, or provided for, by funds independent of those embraced by the ensuing estimate. It has now a clear, unembarrassed property of the following articles and value. It possesses land, buildings, books, statuary, and pictures, at their actual cost, (without including the great number and value of the articles which, during the past half-century, have been derived from donations,) of a value exceeding

two hundred and fifty-three thousand dollars ; it also possesses a productive property (including what remains of the subscriptions made the present year, after the payment of the debts and liabilities above mentioned) exceeding in value *forty-five thousand dollars* ; to which must be added the noble fund for the increase of the Library, the gift of the late John Bromfield in his lifetime, now amounting to upwards of *twenty-seven thousand dollars* ; and also the net proceeds of the exhibitions of pictures during the present year, amounting to *twenty-seven hundred dollars* ; — together constituting an aggregate of more than *three hundred and twenty-seven thousand dollars*.*

It is impossible to witness this great result, without feelings of gratitude, and expressions of congratulation, that our lot is cast in a community able by its capital, and willing by the spirit of individual citizens, to uphold such a literary institution amidst the vicissitudes and occasional embarrassments to which, through the changes of the times, it has been subjected ; and to raise it, at length, to a height of resources and power, on which it is apparently placed beyond the reach of future accident ; — thus, by the experience of the past, justifying a confident hope, or rather giving a firm assurance, that ever hereafter its stores will be increased, and its means enlarged, in proportion to the literary claims and wants of an intellectual and prosperous community.

Nor can the writer of this History refrain, on this occasion, from expressing, in behalf of his departed friends and contemporaries, the delight they would have felt, if, looking through the long vista of nearly fifty years, they could

* A reduction of about \$ 4,000 may be made from the above for the settlement of current expenses at the close of this year. The building, also, in Beacon Street, is not yet finished ; but a contract has now been made to complete the work in the best manner for \$ 29,000, which will also be a deduction from these funds.

have seen a result thus exceeding their fondest and brightest literary and patriotic visions ; — if the little band of enthusiastic scholars, when casting together, from their scanty means, a few volumes to form a collection of “periodical publications,” could have beheld in the distance these small seeds expanded into a library of more than *fifty thousand* volumes, embracing, in the language of one of them,* “abundance of magazines, pamphlets, and *new books*, and of works difficult to be procured in America ;” — if Shaw, the guardian of its infancy, when uttering his “delight” at the attainment, “surpassing the expectations of the most sanguine,” of “*one hundred and sixty subscribers at ten dollars a year*” and of a donation of “*one hundred and fifty dollars in cash*,” † could have realized, that within fifty years an institution would arise from these feeble beginnings, the result of private liberality, possessing an accumulated property exceeding three hundred thousand dollars ; — if Buckminster, when warning his associates “not to build a new edifice unless they could raise money enough to erect an elegant, classical building, entirely of stone, or with a stone façade,” ‡ could have beheld, in his mind’s eye, the effect of his own and his associates’ labors, in a classical edifice, §

* See Biographical Notices, page 52.

† *Ib.*, pp. 26, 27.

‡ *Ib.*, p. 52.

§ This building, erected on Beacon Street, is 114 feet in length, of irregular breadth, and 60 feet in height. The elevation is in the later Italian style of architecture, and resembles in the general arrangement some of the works of Palladio, although some of the details belong to a still later style. The material is Patterson freestone, the texture of which is considerably harder than that of the freestone in general use, and the color is a light gray.

The basement story is of solid masonry, supporting the first floor on groined arches of brick. The entrance to the first story is by a doorway 14 feet high and 10 feet broad, opening on a vestibule from which access is had to the staircase and to all the rooms in the building.

The first story contains a hall 80 feet in length, designed for a sculpture gallery ; a reading-room ; and a room for the use of committees, &c.

The second story is appropriated to the Library, extends the entire length of the building, and is surrounded by an iron gallery, accessible by iron spiral

one hundred and fourteen feet in length, sixty feet in height, of a breadth that affords a space capable of splendidly accommodating a library, reading-room, picture gallery, and sculpture gallery, and “with a stone façade” in the style of Palladio, — the hearts of each and all of them would have been filled with a joy and exultation, which those alone can understand and realize, who, like them, combine, as an active principle of their lives, a love of literature with a love of country.

staircases. The main hall is divided by an archway, one compartment displaying the books in cases lining the walls, the other in alcoves between the pillars. It is highly finished in Italian style, with a decorated ceiling. For advantages of light, air, retirement, and an open southern aspect, it can hardly be surpassed. It contains over 40,000 volumes, about four fifths of the present collection. In front of this hall are two rooms, to be likewise finished with iron galleries and spiral staircases. They are capable of containing 30,000 volumes. The building when completed, as it will be in a few months, will give room for *eighty thousand volumes*, besides the parts occupied by pictures and statuary; and, if these should be removed to any other place, it might contain at least *one hundred and fifty thousand volumes*.

The third story is designed for pictures, and is divided into four apartments. The side walls are but 13 feet high, so that no picture can be placed too high to be seen distinctly. The light is admitted into each apartment by a skylight, from which it is favorably reflected upon the walls.



CHRONOLOGICAL LIST
OF THE
PROPRIETORS OF THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM,
FROM
ITS FOUNDATION TO THE END OF THE YEAR 1850,
ACCORDING TO THE CERTIFICATE BOOK.

N. B. When several names are attached to the number of a share, the *last* is that of the present holder. The certificates of the shares taken by the original subscribers in 1807 were not issued till 1815. Such names of those subscribers as do not appear below may be found in the list on pages 43-45. By the terms of the first subscription, no individual could hold more than *three* shares.

No. of Share.	Proprietors.	Date of Certificate.	No. of Share.	Proprietors.	Date of Certificate.
1	Harrison Gray Otis	1815		Ebenezer Francis	1815
	Charles Thacher	1849	16	Benjamin Bussey	1815
2	John Lowell	1815		George Livermore	1843
	Rebecca Amory Lowell	1842	17	Thomas Coffin Amory	1815
3	John Lowell	1815		Thomas Coffin Amory	1818
	John Amory Lowell	1817		Thomas A. Dexter	1820
4	Josiah Quincy	1815		Jeffrey Richardson	1822
5	Josiah Quincy	1815	18	Thomas W. Storrow	1815
	Josiah Quincy, Jr.	1823		Jacob Tidd	1817
6	Josiah Quincy	1815		George Minot Dexter	1828
	George Burroughs	1815		Samuel G. Williams	1830
7	Samuel Eliot	1815		Enoch Martin	1837
	William Havard Eliot	1821		Arthur Scholfield	1841
	Nathaniel Greene	1832	19	Peter O. Thacher	1815
	Nathaniel Curtis, Jr.	1841		Charles Pelham Curtis	1828
	Francis Alger	1842	20	Samuel Torrey	1815
8	James Perkins	1815		Daniel P. Parker	1821
	Samuel Cabot	1831	21	Samuel Dexter	1815
	Francis Skinner	1839	22	Charles Lowell	1815
9	John C. Brown	1815	23	John Hancock	1815
	John Coffin Jones	1820	24	Cornelius Coolidge	1815
	Anna P. Jones	1839		Samuel G. Williams	1821
10	Thomas Perkins	1815		James Allen	1822
	William P. Perkins	1829		Joseph M. Marsh	1824
11	Daniel Sargent	1815		James Allen, Jr.	1826
	John H. Cabot	1820		Eben Billings	1828
	Amos Binney	1833		Robert B. Allen	1830
	Samuel W. Swett	1840		Charles Allen	1834
	Russell Sturgis	1846		George W. Warren	1836
12	Joseph Head	1815		Edward Sprague Rand	1839
	Moody Kent	1837	25	Francis Johnnot Oliver	1815
13	Thomas H. Perkins	1815	26	Oliver Putnam	1815
14	William Pickman	1815		Daniel Parkman	1827
15	Uriah Cotting	1815		Samuel A. Bemis	1827

	Amos A. Lawrence	1842		Samuel Salisbury	1826
27	Nathan Appleton	1815		Alexander Parris	1826
28	Stephen Higginson, Jr.	1815		Stephen Codman	1847
	Francis J. Higginson	1828	49	Gardiner Greene	1815
	Howard Sargent	1831		John S. Copley Greene	1835
	Mrs. C. K. Sargent	1834		Samuel Austin	1840
	Nathaniel I. Bowditch	1834	50	Edward Blake, Jr.	1815
29	Stephen Higginson, Jr.	1815	51	Nathaniel Goddard	1815
	George Sullivan	1816		Martin Gay	1843
	Henry Lee	1817	52	Samuel Salisbury	1815
	Francis Lee	1821		Josiah Salisbury	1819
	Henry Lee	1830		Edward E. Salisbury	1833
30	John Richards	1815	53	Joseph Tilden	1815
	Francis Richards	1826	54	Peter Chardon Brooks	1815
31	Stephen Codman	1815		Peter Chardon Brooks	1849
	Henry Codman	1818	55	Thomas K. Jones	1815
32	Samuel May	1815		Samuel James Bridge	1832
33	James Lloyd	1815		Bradford Lincoln, Jr.	1833
	John Borland	1832		Robert Treat Paine	1837
34	John Gore	1815	56	Nathaniel R. Sturgis	1815
	Tho. Perkins (Guard.)	1819		Russell Sturgis	1818
	John C. Gore	1827		Samuel Henshaw	1845
35	Allan Melville	1815	57	William Ingalls	1815
	Charles R. Codman	1820		Caleb Stimson	1824
36	Joseph Coolidge, Jr.	1815		Caleb Morton Stimson	1841
	Tasker H. Swett	1841	58	Israel Munson	1815
	Elizabeth B. Swett	1842		Le Baron Russell	1844
37	Eben Preble	1815	59	William R. Gray	1815
	Ralph R. Wormeley	1826		William Gray	1831
	James Blake	1828		James Freeman	1833
	John Harrison Blake	1849		Charles Torrey	1836
38	John Prince, Jr.	1815		James H. Hicks	1838
	William H. Gardiner	1831		Josiah Parsons Cooke	1842
39	Samuel Parkman	1815	60	Ebenezer T. Andrews	1815
	Thomas Davis	1832		William T. Andrews	1830
	William Davis Bliss	1850	61	Thomas Cushing	1815
40	Kirk Boott	1815		Benjamin M. Watson	1818
	John Wright Boott	1817		John P. Rice	1824
	William Boott	1831		Benj. W. Crowninshield	1832
	John Wright Boott	1834	62	Isaiah Thomas	1815
	Kirk Boott	1850		Frederic Tudor	1831
41	Edward Tuckerman, Jr.	1815	63	Theodore Lyman	1815
	Edward Tuckerman, Jr.	1839		Theodore Lyman	1820
42	Thomas L. Winthrop	1815	64	Caleb Loring	1815
	George S. Hillard	1843		Charles Greely Loring	1836
43	Timothy Williams	1815	65	John Pickens	1815
	Joshua H. Wolcott	1842		Henry Lienow	1826
44	William Smith Shaw	1815		Hartley H. Wright	1838
	Joseph Barlow Felt	1826	66	Benjamin Pickman, Jr.	1815
45	William Sawyer	1815		Clarke G. Pickman	1821
46	Judah Hays	1815		Peter P. F. Degrand	1839
	Boston Athenæum	1822		Charles Torrey	1844
	Thomas Beale Wales	1823		E. Rockwood Hoar	1850
47	John Parker	1815	67	Francis Cabot Lowell	1815
	John Parker, Jr.	1825		John Lowell, Jr.	1821
	Charles Beck	1845		Jacob Abbott	1838
48	Samuel D. Harris	1815		Francis Brown Hayes	1844

	Lemuel Stanwood	1845		Daniel Hastings	1816
68	Nathaniel Amory	1815		John D. Winslow	1820
	Joseph L. Cunningham	1822		Daniel Hastings	1824
	Henry B. Rogers	1822		Charles Pelham	1839
69	Benjamin Weld	1815	88	Charles Davis	1815
	Charles Barnard	1823		Josiah Marshall	1823
70	John Warren	1815		Thomas Motley	1831
	Edward Warren	1833	89	Richard C. Derby	1815
71	Joshua Davis	1815	90	Isaac P. Davis	1815
	Robert Farley	1843		William S. Tuckerman	1847
	Stephen H. Phillips	1847	91	Benjamin Joy	1814
72	Benjamin Rich	1815	92	Jonathan Mason	1815
	John Bellows	1822		Robert Bennett Forbes	1832
	Benjamin Rich, Jr.	1824		George Bancroft	1838
	Samuel H. Rich	1827		Nathaniel H. Emmons	1850
	Francis Brown Hayes	1846	93	Joseph W. Revere	1815
73	Micajah Sawyer	1815	94	Abraham Touro	1815
	Thomas Sawyer	1824		Charles Taylor	1823
74	Joseph Hall	1815	95	Russell Sturgis	1815
	Charles Cunningham	1848		Mass. General Hospital	1817
75	Seth Knowles	1815		John Belknap	1822
	William Taylor	1831	96	Robert H. Gardiner	1815
	Thomas B. Curtis	1837	97	Thomas Bartlett	1815
	John Albree	1850	98	Jonathan Phillips	1815
	William Parsons	1850	99	Stephen Jones, Jr.	1815
76	William Prescott	1815		John Richards, Jr.	1834
	William H. Prescott	1827		Francis Richards	1850
77	Thomas Hill, Jr.	1815	100	Samuel Welles	1815
	Francis Boott	1817		Peter Parker	1816
	Mark Healey	1848	101	James Lamb	1815
78	George Gardner Lee	1815		Thomas Lamb	1822
	David Sears	1816	102	Isaac Parker	1815
79	Jonathan Davis	1815		Daniel Parkman	1828
	Edward G. Davis	1829		Cyrus Alger	1828
	Pickering Dodge	1835	103	William Smith Shaw	1815
	J. Ingersoll Bowditch	1836		George Searle	1826
80	John Heard, Jr.	1815		Benjamin M. Watson	1829
81	Samuel Salisbury, Jr.	1815		Samuel J. Gardner	1833
	Nancy Salisbury	1850		Jesse P. Richardson	1834
82	Stephen Higginson	1815		Isaac Parker	1836
	Henry Higginson	1834		Richard C. Cabot	1849
	Thomas B. Pope	1839	104	Henry Gardner Rice	1815
	John Stevens	1840		Caleb Adams	1819
83	Samuel G. Perkins	1815		Benjamin Adams	1829
	Thomas H. Perkins	1833	105	Ralph I. Reed	1815
	Stephen H. Perkins	1833		Jacob Gates	1816
84	John T. Apthorp	1815		Boston Athenæum	1821
	George B. Upton	1849		H. A. S. Dearborn	1822
85	Timothy Bigelow	1815		G. L. Chandler, Jr.	1832
	John Prescott Bigelow	1817		Giles Henry Lodge	1835
86	Adam Babcock	1815	106	Joseph Hurd, Jr.	1815
	William E. Payne	1831		William Hurd	1842
	Edward W. Payne	1831	107	William V. Hutchings	1815
	Edward G. Loring	1832		James T. Austin	1820
	Richard C. Cabot	1835	108	Nehemiah Parsons	1815
	Francis Davis	1845		Thomas Wigglesworth	1818
87	Andrew Craigie	1815	109	Nathaniel G. Snelling	1815

	George C. Shattuck	1815	126	William Phillips	1815
110	James Bowdoin	1815		Edward Phillips	1822
	James Bowdoin	1832	127	John T. Kirkland	1818
	William C. Tyler	1835		James Freeman, Jr.	1828
	Edward Blake	1835		Henry H. Tuckerman	1831
111	George Higginson	1815		John Homans	1844
	James P. Higginson	1819	128	William Cochran	1820
112	Henry Andrews	1815		Caleb Andrews	1822
	Thomas G. Chase	1819	129	Samuel Appleton	1822
	Henry Gardner Rice	1820	130	George Searle	1822
	Samuel B. Rice	1826		Washington P. Gragg	1825
	Henry Gardner Rice	1827		Martin Brimmer	1830
113	William Whitwell	1815		Martin Brimmer	1849
	John Bumstead	1817	131	Lewis Tappan	1822
114	John Clarke Howard	1815		Charles Bowen	1827
	John Clarke Howard	1841		John Hancock, Jr.	1827
115	Eben Larkin	1815	132	Joseph P. Bradlee	1822
	Henry Rice	1819		Franklin Haven	1843
	Whitwell, Bond, & Co.	1829	133	Thomas Wigglesworth	1822
	Henry Rice	1835		Edward Wigglesworth	1822
	John McLean Bethune	1841	134	Josiah Bradlee	1822
116	William Oliver	1815		Frederic W. Bradlee	1849
	Boston Athenæum	1821	135	Daniel Hammond	1822
	R. D. Shepherd	1822	136	Asa Whitney	1822
	Gorham Brooks	1844		Benjamin D. Whitney	1831
117	Benjamin Whitwell	1815		Cornelius C. Felton	1838
	Henry Cabot	1818		Benjamin D. Whitney	1848
	George Bond	1820	137	Pliny Cutler	1822
	Benjamin F. White	1837		Charles Brown	1841
	Samuel Whitwell	1838		Joseph W. Homer	1841
118	Samuel G. Williams	1815	138	John Hooper	1822
	Charles Pelham Curtis	1819		Samuel Hooper	1824
	Nathaniel Bowditch	1824	139	Richard D. Tucker	1822
	Henry I. Bowditch	1839		William S. Bullard	1840
119	Richard Sullivan	1815		Franklin H. Story, Jr.	1847
120	Francis J. Oliver	1815	140	Francis Lee	1822
	John S. Capt	1817		Rufus Wyman	1826
121	John Codman	1815		Jeffries Wyman	1843
	William Appleton	1820	141	Thomas Lee	1822
122	Thomas Williams	1815	142	George Ticknor	1822
	Francis H. Williams	1834	143	John Hubbard	1822
	Frederick Howes	1837		Caleb Reed	1845
	Susan Burley	1841	144	John S. Ellery	1822
123	Samuel J. Prescott	1815		Samuel W. Waldron	1836
	John Brown	1818		Lemuel Shattuck	1836
	Boston Athenæum	1821		Sarah Baxter	1838
	Joseph Coolidge	1822		Lemuel Shattuck	1845
	Joseph Coolidge, Jr.	1826	145	Jonathan Amory	1822
	Elijah Loring	1834		Jonathan Amory, Jr.	1830
124	William Phillips	1815		Henry Grew	1831
	Gustavus Tuckerman	1827		Zelotes Hosmer	1836
	Henry H. Tuckerman	1837		Henry Roby	1837
	Henry Gardner	1837	146	Jesse Putnam	1822
125	William Phillips	1815	147	Charles Jackson	1822
	Samuel H. Walley	1822	148	Samuel P. Gardner	1822
	John Welles	1827		Peter Thacher Homer	1844
	Arnold Welles	1835	149	Patrick Tracy Jackson	1822

150	Charles Bradbury	1822	Charles R. Bond	1839
151	Horace Gray	1822	Thomas W. Parsons, Jr.	1840
	William S. Bullard	1849	181 Frederic William Paine	1822
152	Francis Calley Gray	1822	Gardiner L. Candler	1835
153	John Chipman Gray	1822	David B. Tower	1837
154	Thomas Wren Ward	1822	Rufus Choate	1839
155	William Sturgis	1822	182 Francis Stanton	1822
156	John Bryant	1822	Joshua Blake	1840
157	Henderson Inches	1822	183 Jonathan Chapman	1822
158	Isaac Winslow	1822	George Chapman	1831
159	Gorham Brooks	1822	Jonathan Chapman	1834
160	George Hallet	1822	O. Goodwin, (Trustee)	1849
	Caleb Cushing	1828	184 Lot Wheelwright	1822
161	Charles Thorndike	1822	Wm. W. Wheelwright	1827
	Chas. G. Loring, Adm'r.	1846	Chas. H. Wheelwright	1835
162	Augustus Thorndike	1822	Edward Blanchard, Jr.	1838
163	Benjamin Guild	1822	185 John D. Williams	1822
164	Edward Brooks	1822	G. Foster Williams	1849
165	Ebenezer Appleton	1822	186 Charles Torrey	1822
	Alden B. Weston	1832	Frederick A. Cobb	1829
166	Ebenezer Rollins	1822	Amos A. Lawrence	1838
167	Abbott Lawrence	1822	Francis Boott	1841
168	Marshall Binney Spring	1822	Benjamin R. Curtis	1843
169	Amos Lawrence	1822	187 Samuel Torrey	1822
	William R. Lawrence	1836	188 John Odin	1822
170	Israel Thorndike	1822	Reuben Richards, Jr.	1833
	Edward G. Loring	1844	189 David Ellis	1822
	George W. Warren	1844	Samuel B. Barrell	1839
171	William Pratt	1822	Alvan Lamson	1843
	William P. Winchester	1845	190 Samuel Calley Gray	1822
172	James Hall	1822	191 Gorham Parsons	1822
	James T. Austin	1841	Theophilus Parsons	1822
	Susanna Williams	1847	192 James Jackson	1822
173	John Tappan	1822	193 Edward Cruft	1822
174	David W. Child	1822	194 Peter R. Dalton	1822
	Artemas Ward	1835	Samuel T. Armstrong	1826
	Henry Artemas Ward	1848	195 Edward Everett	1822
175	Robert Gould Shaw	1822	196 William Lawrence	1822
176	Thomas Cordis	1822	Josiah D. Whitney	1850
177	John Bellows	1822	197 Elbridge Gerry	1822
	George A. Otis	1826	Daniel Parkman	1828
	John Brazer Davis	1827	John Parkman	1828
	James M. Robbins	1835	Samuel Gridley Howe	1834
178	Abijah Fisk	1822	198 Benjamin Wiggin	1822
	Hercules M. Hayes	1824	Moses Whitney	1827
	John Williams	1829	Warren J. Whitney	1836
	Hercules M. Hayes	1830	Samuel Downer	1841
	Simon Eliot Greene	1830	199 Samuel Atkins Eliot	1822
	Samuel G. Goodrich	1831	200 David Henshaw	1822
	John H. Jenks	1832	201 Samuel Swett	1822
	Samuel G. Goodrich	1833	202 John Dorr	1822
	John Mackay	1840	203 Benjamin Russell	1822
	William D. Sohier	1845	204 Daniel Webster	1822
179	Samuel Dorr	1822	205 Seth Bass	1822
	Charles H. Dorr	1845	George N. Faxon	1849
180	Samuel Whitwell	1822	206 Jacob Bigelow	1826
	Benjamin F. White	1837	207 William Ingalls	1826

208	Samuel Atwood Shurtleff	1826	240	William Parsons	1826
209	John Ware	1826		William Parsons	1838
210	Zabdiel Boylston Adams	1826	241	William Sullivan	1826
211	Enoch Hale, Jr.	1826		Francis Bassett	1839
212	Edward Reynolds, Jr.	1826	242	Benjamin Willis	1826
	Thomas W. Parsons	1836	243	Henry Sigourney	1826
	Alfred Greenough	1838	244	Alexander Bliss	1826
213	Woodbridge Strong	1826		William Grigg	1828
214	Josiah Foster Flagg	1826		Nathaniel Faxon	1836
215	Joshua H. Hayward	1826	245	William Ropes	1826
	Thomas Greaves Cary	1832		George W. Lyman	1830
216	John G. Coffin	1826	246	Jonathan Porter	1826
	Ambrose S. Courtis	1829	247	Abiel Chandler	1826
	Thomas Courtis	1844		George M. Dexter	1833
	James Diman Green	1844		William Gibbs	1834
217	George Parkman	1826		William Richardson	1847
218	George Hayward	1826	248	Edmund Dwight	1826
219	Walter Channing, Jr.	1826	249	Robert Waterston	1826
220	John Gorham	1826		Helen Ruthven	1829
	Samuel Kettell	1839		Robert Waterston	1830
221	Horace Bean	1826	250	Charles J. Cazenove	1826
	Richard Fletcher	1827		John Eliot Thayer	1834
222	John Dixwell	1826	251	John Davis	1826
223	George W. Otis, Jr.	1826		Andrew Alexander	1848
224	George Bates	1826	252	Josiah Loring	1826
225	David Osgood	1826		Henry R. Cleveland	1842
226	Anson Hooker, Jr.	1826		Sarah P. Cleveland	1844
	Thomas J. Whittemore	1830	253	Benjamin Loring	1827
	Thomas Sherwin	1834	254	John Randall	1827
	Thomas C. Amory, Jr.	1846		James Andrews	1827
227	Chandler Robbins, Jr.	1826	255	John Quincy Adams	1829
	Samuel R. Putnam	1835		Charles Francis Adams	1829
228	Thomas Foster	1826	256	Thomas H. Cabot	1830
	John Foster	1831		Samuel Cabot, Jr.	1836
	James Hayward	1841	257	John Guardenier	1831
229	Charles Wild	1826		George Howe	1839
230	Amos Farnsworth	1826		Charles Mixter	1843
	Charles K. Dillaway	1835	258	Israel Thorndike	1831
	Robert Henry Eddy	1836		William J. Loring	1831
231	John Collins Warren	1826		John E. Lodge	1841
232	William J. Walker	1826	259	George Minot Dexter	1842
	John P. Rice	1835	260	John Guardenier	1842
	Samuel Lawrence	1835		Joseph Bell	1843
	Uriah A. Boyden	1841	261	Luther Stearns Cushing	1842
233	Asa Bullard	1826	262	Oliver Wendell Holmes	1843
	Simon Eliot Greene	1827	263	John Guardenier	1845
	Ammi B. Young	1840		John Redman	1845
234	Solomon D. Townsend	1826		John Bromfield	1846
235	John Randall	1826	264	Josiah Bradlee, Jr.	1844
	Elizabeth Randall	1846	265	Thomas Beale Wales	1844
236	John Clark	1826	266	Robert Hooper	1844
	Richard Cobb	1829	267	John Parker	1844
	Matthias Plant Sawyer	1836		Robert Wm. Hooper	1845
237	Benjamin Ropes Nichols	1826	268	William E. Coale	1844
238	Samuel Hubbard	1826	269	George C. Shattuck, Jr.	1844
239	William E. Channing	1826	270	Thomas Wren Ward	1844
	William F. Channing	1849		John Gallison Ward	1844

271	Thomas Wren Ward	1844	311	William Lawrence	1844
	George Cabot Ward	1844		Benjamin D. Greene	1850
272	Samuel Fales	1844	312	William W. Stone	1844
	Charles Henry Parker	1850	313	Thomas Wetmore	1844
273	James S. Amory	1844	314	Gardner Colby	1844
274	Charles Barnard	1844	315	Jonathan French	1844
275	John Borland	1844	316	James Ingersoll	1844
	James Lloyd	1844	317	Robert C. Hooper	1844
	John Nelson Borland	1849	318	John W. Trull	1844
276	Edward Blanchard	1844		John Hunt Welch	1849
277	George Theodore Lyman	1844	319	John D. Williams	1844
278	William Amory	1844		John D. W. Williams	1849
279	Francis Cabot Lowell	1844	320	John D. Williams	1844
280	George G. Lowell	1844		David W. Williams	1849
281	George Batey Blake	1844	321	John D. Williams	1844
282	J. Wiley Edmands	1844		David W. Williams	1849
283	Phineas Upham	1844		Edwin Lamson	1850
284	Sidney Bartlett	1844	322	Stephen Ball, Jr.	1844
285	Samuel Leonard Abbot	1844	323	John P. Thorndike	1844
286	Joseph Balch	1844		George Q. Thorndike	1850
	Anna L. Balch	1850	324	Benj. W. Crowninshield	1844
287	John Chipman Gray	1844		Edw. A. Crowninshield	1849
	Horace Gray, Jr.	1848	325	Daniel Sargent Curtis	1844
288	John Chipman Gray	1844	326	Addison Gilmore	1844
	Francis Aug. Brooks	1849	327	Francis Henry Appleton	1844
289	John Chipman Gray	1844	328	Samuel Cabot	1844
	Nathaniel Hooper	1849	329	Charles F. Hovey	1844
290	Abbott Lawrence	1844	330	Samuel Batchelder	1844
	James Lawrence	1846	331	William Rollins	1844
291	Abbott Lawrence	1844	332	Charles B. Shaw	1844
	Timothy B. Lawrence	1846	333	William Blake	1844
292	Abbott Lawrence	1844	334	John James Dixwell	1844
	Abbott Lawrence, Jr.	1846	335	George Basil Dixwell	1844
293	Amos Lawrence	1844	336	Joshua Sears	1844
294	Amos Lawrence	1844	337	Joseph Whitney	1844
	Jerome V. C. Smith	1849	338	Samuel Frothingham	1844
295	Joshua H. Welcott	1844	339	David S. Greenough	1844
	Charles Sumner	1845	340	Aaron Hobart	1844
296	Charles Hamilton Parker	1844		William S. Bullard	1847
297	Ozias Goodwin	1844		Charles Eliot Norton	1849
298	Pratt, William	1844	341	George Robert Russell	1844
	Sarah P. Pratt	1845	342	George Callender	1844
299	Benjamin Adams	1850	343	William F. Whitney	1844
300	John Bryant, Jr.	1844	344	Henry Hall	1844
301	Jacob Sleeper	1844	345	William Perkins	1844
302	Daniel P. Parker	1844	346	Willard Sayles	1844
	Henry Tuke Parker	1845		Maria F. Sayles	1849
303	Henry B. Stone	1844	347	Isaac Livermore	1844
	Isaac Orr Barnes	1850	348	John A. Blanchard	1844
304	George W. Coffin	1844	349	Francis Fisher	1844
305	Caleb Curtis	1844	350	Charles Storer Storrow	1844
306	Henry Sidney Waldo	1844	351	Hugh R. Kendall	1844
307	Thomas P. Cushing	1844	352	James Parker	1844
308	Samuel R. Putnam	1844	353	Sumner Hudson	1844
	Robert B. Storer	1850		Lyman Perry	1848
309	Charles Amory	1844		James Tuttle	1850
310	William Lawrence	1844	354	John S. Wright	1844

355	George Gardner	1844	403	James Johnson	1845
356	Charles E. Miller	1844	404	Ebenezer Chadwick	1845
357	Gardner Brewer	1844	405	William Cushing Aylwin	1845
358	Benj. G. Wainwright	1844	406	Jeremiah Mason	1845
	Farnham Plummer	1849		Charles Mason	1849
359	Charles Francis Adams	1844	407	James Paul	1845
360	John M. Forbes	1844		Otis Daniell	1847
361	George Francis Parkman	1844	408	Benjamin Bangs	1845
362	Timothy C. Leeds	1844	409	Thomas Greenleaf	1845
363	Sampson Reed	1844	410	Thomas Greenleaf	1845
364	Andrew Eliot Belknap	1844	411	Thomas Greenleaf	1845
365	John Lowell Gardner	1844	412	Thomas Greenleaf	1845
366	John Lowell Gardner	1844	413	Francis Calley Gray	1845
367	John Lowell Gardner	1844	414	Nathan Appleton	1845
	Thomas Groom	1845	415	Nathan Appleton	1845
368	George H. Kuhn	1844	416	Nathan Appleton	1845
369	James B. Bradlee	1844		Thomas G. Appleton	1847
370	William Gray	1844	417	Edward Austin	1845
371	Caleb Eddy	1844	418	Theodore Chase	1845
	Samuel Barrett	1847	419	Martin Brimmer	1845
	Willard Phillips	1848		Nathaniel Whiting	1849
372	Francis Low	1844	420	John Stearns	1845
	Daniel S. Gilchrist	1848	421	Oliver Eldridge	1845
	Nathaniel Greene	1849	422	Charles Fred. Adams	1845
373	William Whiting	1844	423	Samuel Appleton	1845
374	Benjamin Seaver	1844	424	Robert Gould Shaw	1845
375	Henry A. Page	1844		Francis Geo. Shaw	1849
376	Theodore Metcalf	1844	425	Peter Chardon Brooks	1845
377	Lucius Manlius Sargent	1844		Abigail B. Adams	1849
378	Nathan Carruth	1844	426	Peter Chardon Brooks, Jr.	1845
	Simon Greenleaf	1846	427	Daniel C. Bacon	1845
379	Jabez C. Howe	1844	428	Charles C. Little &	
380	Joseph N. Howe, Jr.	1844		James Brown	1845
381	George A. Whitney	1844	429	Peter Chardon Brooks	1845
382	Jeffrey Richardson	1844		Gorham Brooks	1849
383	John Douglas Bates	1844	430	Amos Binney	1845
384	Francis S. Carruth	1844	431	Caleb Chace	1845
	Charles Homer	1845	432	Jonathan Chapman	1845
385	Edward H. Robbins	1844		Francis Bacon	1849
386	Abel Kendall, Jr.	1844	433	Jonas Chickering	1845
387	Charles Sprague	1845	434	Edward Codman	1845
388	William Minot	1845	435	Samuel F. Coolidge &	
389	George Barrell Emerson	1845		Elisha Haskell	1845
390	John D. Gardner	1845		Jonathan Brown, Jr.	1849
391	William Thomas	1845	436	Charles P. Curtis, Jr.	1845
392	John T. Coolidge	1845	437	Thomas Dixon	1845
393	John Lamson	1845		B. Homer Dixon	1850
394	Erastus B. Bigelow	1845	438	John Guardenier	1846
395	Andrew T. Hall	1845		Benjamin T. Reed	1850
396	Charles Lyman	1845	439	James Davis, Jr.	1845
	Peter P. F. Degrand	1845	440	Samuel Atkins Eliot	1845
397	Francis Caleb Loring	1845	441	Edwards & Stoddard	1845
398	Marshall Spring Perry	1845		Charles Stoddard &	
399	Nathan Cooley Keep	1845		J. S. Lovering	1847
400	Francis B. Crowninshield	1845	442	John Earle, Jr., & Co.	1845
401	R. C. Mackay	1845		William P. Parrott	1849
402	Josiah Quincy, Jr.	1845	443	Stephen Fairbanks	1845

444	Samuel Atkins Eliot	1845	485	Michael H. Simpson	1845
445	Richard Sullivan Fay	1845	486	James Savage	1845
446	John Gardner	1845	487	John Amory Lowell	1845
447	Horace Gray	1845	488	Charles Francis Adams	1850
	Tristram B. Mackay	1849	489	Lemuel Shaw	1845
448	Prince Hawes	1845	490	H. M. Holbrook, J. B.	
	Benjamin Lincoln	1849		Carter, & Co.	1845
449	George Hallet	1845	491	Samuel Appleton	1845
	Benjamin F. Wing	1845	492	Samuel Appleton	1845
450	James H. Hicks	1845	493	David Sears, Jr.	1845
	Charles Eliot Ware	1849	494	Peter Chardon Brooks	1845
451	Robert Gould Shaw	1845		Francis Boott Brooks	1849
	Robert G. Shaw, Jr.	1849	495	Frederic Sears	1845
452	Patrick T. Jackson	1845	496	Mercantile Library Asso.	1845
	Lydia Jackson, (Trustee)	1848	497	Winthrop Sears	1845
453	Eliphalet Kimball, J. H.		498	Thomas H. Perkins	1845
	Jewett, & Co.	1845	499	Thomas H. Perkins	1845
	Eliphalet Kimball	1849	500	Thomas H. Perkins	1845
	Augustine Heard	1849	501	Charles Amory	1850
454	Henry Lee, Jr.	1845		John Louis Clarke	1850
455	Arnold Welles	1845	502	Charles Amory	1850
456	James L. Little, Paul		503	William Amory	1850
	Alden, & Co.	1845		William Amory, Jr.	1850
457	John Amory Lowell	1845	504	Nathan Appleton	1850
458	Robert M. Mason	1845	505	Robert Appleton	1850
459	James K. Mills	1845	506	Samuel Appleton	1850
460	Charles C. Perkins	1845	507	Samuel Appleton	1850
461	Edward N. Perkins	1845	508	Samuel Appleton	1850
462	John Amory Lowell	1845	509	Samuel A. Appleton	1850
463	Samuel Phipps	1845	510	William Appleton	1850
464	George Pratt	1845		William Appleton, Jr.	1850
465	William C. Eayrs &		511	Samuel T. Armstrong	1850
	Josiah L. Fairbanks	1845		Mrs. A. Armstrong	1850
466	Thomas H. Perkins	1845	512	Samuel Austin	1850
	Thos. H. Perkins, Jr.	1849	513	Ebenezer Bacon	1850
467	George R. Sampson	1845	514	Daniel C. Bacon	1850
468	Robert Gould Shaw	1845		Ebenezer Bacon	1850
	G. Howland Shaw	1849	515	James F. Baldwin	1850
469	Francis Skinner & Co.	1845	516	George P. Bangs	1850
	Henry K. Horton	1847	517	James Bayley	1850
470	Josiah Stickney	1845	518	Charles Beck	1850
471	Philo S. Shelton	1845	519	Joseph Bell	1850
472	Ignatius Sargent	1845	520	John A. Blanchard	1850
473	James W. Smith	1845	521	John W. Blodget	1850
474	Matthias Plant Sawyer	1845	522	J. Ingersoll Bowditch	1850
475	John L. Tucker	1845	523	Dwight Boyden	1850
	Samuel K. Williams	1848	524	Josiah Bradlee	1850
476	Adam W. Thaxter	1845		George B. Cary	1850
477	John Eliot Thayer	1845	525	Josiah Bradlee	1850
478	Henry Timmins	1845	526	Josiah Bradlee	1850
479	John Collins Warren	1845	527	Elijah D. Brigham	1850
480	John Welles	1845	528	Francis Augustus Brooks	1850
481	John Welles	1845	529	Peter Chardon Brooks	1850
	H. Hollis Hunnewell	1847	530	John Bryant	1850
482	Moses B. Williams	1845		Henry Bryant	1850
483	J. Simmons & Son	1845	531	William S. Bullard	1850
484	Lewis W. Tappan	1845	532	Benjamin Burgess	1850

533	Susan Butley	1850	582	Andrew T. Hall	1850
	Fred. Howes, (Exec.)	1850	583	Henry Hall	1850
	William B. Howes	1850	584	Henry S. Hallet	1850
534	Joseph Burnett	1850	585	Peter Harvey	1850
535	T. O. H. P. Burnham	1850	586	Franklin Haven	1850
536	Theophilus Burr	1850	587	William Hayden	1850
537	Thomas Greaves Cary	1850	588	William A. Hayden	1850
538	Ebenezer Chadwick	1850	589	George Hayward	1850
539	Walter Channing	1850	590	Augustine Heard	1850
540	Rufus Choate	1850	591	Peter Thacher Homer	1850
541	B. C. Clark	1850	592	George Howe	1850
542	Charles R. Codman	1850	593	Jabez C. Howe	1850
543	Edward Codman	1850		Samuel Johnson	1850
544	George W. Coffin	1850	594	H. Hollis Hunnewell	1850
545	William E. Coffin	1850	595	James Ingersoll	1850
546	Joseph H. Cotton	1850	596	Charles Jackson	1850
547	John A. Cunningham	1850	597	Charles Jackson, Jr.	1850
	C. Loring Cunningham	1850	598	Anna P. Jones	1850
548	Benjamin R. Curtis	1850	599	George B. Jones	1850
549	Charles P. Curtis	1850	600	George H. Kuhn	1850
	William W. Greenough	1850	601	Abbott Lawrence	1850
550	Thomas B. Curtis	1850	602	Abbott Lawrence	1850
551	Thomas P. Cushing	1850	603	Abbott Lawrence	1850
552	Samuel T. Dana	1850	604	Amos Lawrence	1850
553	Edmund W. Dana &			Samuel K. Lothrop	1850
	Stephen W. Dana	1850	605	Amos Lawrence	1850
554	George Darracott	1850		Samuel Lawrence	1850
555	James Davis, Jr.	1850	606	Amos Lawrence	1850
	Frederick W. Davis	1850	607	James Lawrence	1850
556	Peter P. F. Degrand	1850	608	Samuel Lawrence	1850
	Otis Turner	1850	609	William R. Lawrence	1850
557	William Delon	1850	610	James Lee, Jr.	1850
558	Franklin Dexter	1850	611	Thomas Lee	1850
559	John R. Dow	1850	612	Sargent S. Littlehale	1850
560	Levi A. Dowley	1850	613	Giles Henry Lodge	1850
561	Daniel Draper	1850		G. C. Henry Lodge	1850
562	William C. Eavrs &		614	John E. Lodge	1850
	Josiah L. Fairbanks	1850		Henry Cabot	1850
563	Edward Everett	1850	615	Ammi C. Lombard	1850
564	George N. Faxon	1850	616	Israel Lombard	1850
565	Harrison Fay	1850	617	Elisha T. Loring	1850
566	William C. Fay	1850	618	Francis Caleb Loring	1850
567	Fay & Farwells	1850	619	Francis Cabot Lowell	1850
568	Albert Fearing	1850	620	Francis Cabot Lowell	1850
569	Charles B. Fessenden	1850	621	Francis Cabot Lowell	1850
570	Richard Fletcher	1850	622	John Amory Lowell	1850
571	William B. Fosdick	1850	623	John Amory Lowell	1850
572	Jonathan French	1850	624	John Amory Lowell	1850
573	Nath. L. Frothingham	1850	625	John Amory Lowell	1850
574	Addison Gage	1850	626	George Theodore Lyman	1850
575	William H. Gardiner	1850	627	George Williams Lyman	1850
576	Henry J. Gardner	1850	628	Thacher Magoun &	
577	John L. Gardner	1850		Thacher Magoun, Jr.	1850
578	Ozias Goodwin	1850	629	William P. Mason	1850
579	Moses Grant	1850	630	John M. Mayo	1850
580	John Chipman Gray	1850	631	Charles Merriam	1850
581	Thomas Gray	1850	632	Charles H. Mills	1850

633	Charles H. Mills	1850	671	Robert Gould Shaw	1850
634	Charles H. Mills	1850		Quincy A. Shaw	1850
635	(Unsold.)		672	Robert Gould Shaw, Jr.	1850
636	James K. Mills	1850	673	Michael H. Simpson	1850
637	Lawrence Nichols	1850	674	Francis Skinner	1850
638	Nathaniel H. Osgood	1850	675	Jarvis Slade	1850
639	James W. Paige	1850	676	Richard Soule	1850
640	Daniel Pinckney Parker	1850	677	Paran Stevens	1850
641	John Brooks Parker	1850	678	J. Thomas Stevenson	1850
642	William F. Parrott	1850	679	Henry P. Sturgis	1850
643	Arthur L. Payson	1850	680	William Sturgis	1850
644	George Peabody	1850		Henry J. Bigelow	1850
645	John H. Pearson	1850	681	Lewis W. Tappan	1850
646	Charles C. Perkins	1850	682	John Eliot Thayer	1850
647	Edward Newton Perkins	1850		Enoch Train	1850
648	Thomas H. Perkins	1850	683	Nathaniel Thayer	1850
649	Thomas H. Perkins	1850	684	William Thomas	1850
650	Thomas H. Perkins	1850	685	Charles Torrey	1850
651	Lyman Perry	1850	686	Frederic Tudor	1850
652	Edward D. Peters	1850	687	William Underwood	1850
653	William D. Pickman	1850	688	Thomas Beale Wales	1850
654	Samuel S. Pierce	1850	689	Samuel G. Ward	1850
655	William H. Prescott	1850	690	Thomas Wren Ward	1850
656	Josiah Quincy, Jr.	1850	691	George W. Warren	1850
	Josiah P. Quincy	1850	692	Aaron D. Weld	1850
657	James Read &		693	William F. Weld	1850
	Christoph. C. Chadwick	1850	694	John Welles	1850
658	Lewis Rice	1850	695	Alden Bradford Weston	1850
659	Henry B. Rogers	1850		Ezra Weston	1850
660	William Ropes	1850	696	Charles O. Whitmore	1850
661	George R. Sampson	1850	697	David R. Whitney	1850
662	William Sawyer	1850	698	Edward Wigglesworth	1850
663	David Sears	1850	699	James C. Wild	1850
664	George Cheyne Shattuck	1850	700	Solomon Wildes	1850
	William Washburn	1850	701	Charles Wilkins	1850
665	George Cheyne Shattuck	1850	702	John H. Wilkins	1850
	Timothy Farrar	1850	703	David W. Williams	1850
666	George Cheyne Shattuck	1850	704	G. Foster Williams	1850
	Horatio Bigelow	1850	705	John E. Williams	1850
667	George Cheyne Shattuck	1850	706	Hamilton Willis &	
	Nathaniel J. Bradlee	1850		Lucian Skinner	1850
668	G. Howland Shaw	1850	707	William P. Winchester	1850
669	Robert Gould Shaw	1850	708	Joshua H. Wolcott	
670	Robert Gould Shaw	1850		Henry A. Rice	1850

ALPHABETICAL LIST
OF THE
PROPRIETORS OF THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM,
FROM
ITS FOUNDATION TO THE END OF THE YEAR 1850,
ACCORDING TO THE CERTIFICATE BOOK.

N. B. The numbers *within parentheses* denote shares *formerly* held by the persons to whose names they are annexed.

A.		
Abbot, Samuel Leonard	285	Appleton, Francis Henry 327
Abbott, Jacob	(67)	Appleton, Nathan 27, 414, 415, [(416), 504]
Adams, Abigail B.	425	Appleton, Robert 505
Adams, Benjamin	104, 299	Appleton, Samuel 129, 423, 491, [492, 506, 507, 508]
Adams, Caleb	(104)	Appleton, Samuel A. 509
Adams, Charles Francis	255, 359, [488]	Appleton, Thomas Gold 416
Adams, Charles Frederick	422	Appleton, William 121, (510)
Adams, John Quincy	(255)	Appleton, William, Jr. 510
Adams, Zabdiel Boylston	210	Apthorp, John T. (84)
Albree, John	(75)	Armstrong, Mrs. A. 511
Alexander, Andrew	251	Armstrong, Samuel T. 194, (511)
Alger, Cyrus	102	Austin, Edward 417
Alger, Francis	7	Austin, James T. 107, (172)
Allen, Charles	(24)	Austin, Samuel 49, 512
Allen, James	(24)	Aylwin, William Cushing 405
Allen, James, Jr.	(24)	
Allen, Robert B.	(24)	
Amory, Charles	309, (501), 502	
Amory, James S.	273	
Amory, Jonathan	(145)	Babcock, Adam (86)
Amory, Jonathan, Jr.	(145)	Bacon, Daniel C. 427, (514)
Amory, Nathaniel	(68)	Bacon, Ebenezer 513, 514
Amory, Thomas Coffin	(17)	Bacon, Francis 432
Amory, Thomas Coffin	(17)	Balch, Anna L. 286
Amory, Thomas C., Jr.	226	Balch, Joseph (286)
Amory, William	278, (503)	Baldwin, James F. 515
Amory, William, Jr.	503	Ball, Stephen, Jr. 322
Andrews, Caleb	128	Bancroft, George (92)
Andrews, Ebenezer T.	(60)	Bangs, Benjamin 408
Andrews, Henry	(112)	Bangs, George P. 516
Andrews, James	254	Barnard, Charles 69, 274
Andrews, William Turell	60	Barnes, Isaac Orr 303
Appleton, Ebenezer	(165)	Barrell, Samuel B. (189)
		Bartlett, Sidney 284
		B.

Bartlett, Thomas	97	Bradbury, Charles	150
Barrett, Samuel	(371)	Bradlee, Frederic Wainwright	134
Bass, Seth	(205)	Bradlee, James B.	369
Bassett, Francis	241	Bradlee, Joseph P.	(132)
Batchelder, Samuel	330	Bradlee, Josiah	(134), (524), 525,
Bates, George	224		[526]
Bates, John Douglas	383	Bradlee, Josiah, Jr.	264
Baxter, Sarah	(144)	Bradlee, Nathaniel J.	667
Bayley, James	517	Brewer, Gardner	357
Bean, Horace	(221)	Bridge, Samuel James	(55)
Beck, Charles	47, 518	Brigham, Elijah D.	527
Belknap, Andrew Eliot	364	Brimmer, Martin	(130), (419)
Belknap, John	95	Brimmer, Martin	130
Bell, Joseph	260, 519	Bromfield, John	263
Bellows, John	(72), (177)	Brooks, Edward	164
Bemis, Samuel A.	(26)	Brooks, Francis Augustus	288, 528
Bethune, John McLean	115	Brooks, Francis Boott	494
Bigelow, Erastus B.	394	Brooks, Gorham	116, 159, 429
Bigelow, Henry J.	680	Brooks, Peter C.	(54), (425), (429),
Bigelow, Horatio	666		[(494)]
Bigelow, Jacob	206	Brooks, Peter C.	54, 426, 529
Bigelow, John Prescott	85	Brown, Charles	(137)
Bigelow, Timothy	(85)	Brown, John	(123)
Billings, Eben	(24)	Brown, John C.	(9)
Binney, Amos	(11), 430	Brown, Jonathan, Jr.	435
Blake, Edward	50	Bryant, Henry	530
Blake, Edward	110	Bryant, John	156, (530)
Blake, George Batey	281	Bryant, John, Jr.	300
Blake, James	(37)	Bullard, Asa	(233)
Blake, John Harrison	37	Bullard, William S.	(139), 151,
Blake, Joshua	182		[(340), 531]
Blake, William	333	Bumstead, John	113
Blanchard, Edward	276	Burgess, Benjamin	532
Blanchard, Edward, Jr.	184	Burley, Susan	122, (533)
Blanchard, John A.	348, 520	Burnett, Joseph	534
Bliss, Alexander	(244)	Burnham, Thomas O. H. Perry	535
Bliss, William Davis	39	Burr, Theophilus	536
Blodget, John W.	521	Burroughs, George	6
Bond, Charles R.	(180)	Bussey, Benjamin	(16)
Bond, George	(117)		
Boott, Francis	(77)		
Boott, Francis	(186)	C.	
Boott, John Wright	(40)		
Boott, Kirk	(40)	Cabot, Henry	(117), 614
Boott, Kirk	40	Cabot, John H.	(11)
Boott, William	(40)	Cabot, Richard C.	(86), 103
Borland, John	33, (275)	Cabot, Samuel	(8), 328
Borland, John Nelson	275	Cabot, Samuel, Jr.	256
Bowditch, Henry Ingersoll	118	Cabot, Thomas H.	(256)
Bowditch, J. Ingersoll	79, 522	Callender, George	342
Bowditch, Nathaniel	(118)	Capt, John S.	120
Bowditch, Nathaniel Ingersoll	28	Carruth, Francis S.	(384)
Bowdoin, James	(110)	Carruth, Nathan	(378)
Bowdoin, James	(110)	Cary, George B.	524
Bowen, Charles	(131)	Cary, Thomas Greaves	215, 537
Boyden, Dwight	523	Cazenove, Charles J.	(250)
Boyden, Uriah A.	232	Chace, Caleb	431

Eayrs, William C. & Fairbanks, Josiah Loring	465, [562 (371)	Gardner, George Gardner, Henry Gardner, Henry J. Gardner, John Gardner, John D. Gardner, John L. 365, 366, (367), Gardner, Samuel J. Gardner, Samuel P. Gates, Jacob Gay, Martin Gerry, Elbridge Gibbs, William Gilchrist, Daniel S. Gilmore, Addison Goddard, Nathaniel Goodrich, Samuel G. Goodwin, Ozias Goodwin, Ozias, (Trustee) Gore, John Gore, John C. Gorham, John Gragg, Washington P. Grant, Moses Gray, Francis Calley Gray, Horace Gray, Horace, Jr. Gray, John Chipman Gray, Samuel Calley Gray, Thomas Gray, William Gray, William R. Green, James Diman Greene, Benjamin D. Greene, Gardiner Greene, John S. Copley Greene, Nathaniel Greene, Simon Eliot Greenleaf, Simon Greenleaf, Thomas 409, 410, 411, Greenough, Alfred Greenough, David Stoddard Greenough, William W. Grew, Henry Grigg, William Groom, Thomas Guardenier, John (257), (260), (263), Guild, Benjamin	355 124 576 446 390 577 (103) (148) (105) 5 (197) (247) (372) 326 (51) (178) 297, 578 183 (34) 34 (220) (130) 579 152, 413 (151), (447) 287 153, (287), [(288), (289), 580 190 581 (59), 370 (59) 216 311 (49) (49) (7), 372 (178), (233) 378 409, 410, 411, [412 212 339 549 (145) (244) 367 (257), (260), (263), [438) 163
F.			
Fairbanks, Stephen Fales, Samuel Farley, Robert Farnsworth, Amos Farrar, Timothy Faxon, George N. Faxon, Nathaniel Fay, Harrison Fay, Richard Sullivan Fay, William C. Fay & Farwells Fearing, Albert Felt, Joseph Barlow Felton, Cornelius Conway Fessenden, Charles B. Fisher, Francis Fisk, Abijah Flagg, Josiah Foster Fletcher, Richard Forbes, John M. Forbes, Robert Bennett Fosdick, William B. Foster, John Foster, Thomas Francis, Ebenezer Freeman, James Freeman, James, Jr. French, Jonathan Frothingham, Nathaniel L. Frothingham, Samuel	443 (272) (71) (230) 665 205, 564 244 565 445 566 567 568 44 (136) 569 349 (178) 214 221, 570 360 (92) 571 (228) (228) 15 (59) (127) 315, 572 573 338		
G.		H.	
Gage, Addison Gardiner, Robert Hallowell Gardiner, William Howard	574 96 38, 575	Hale, Enoch Hall, Andrew T. Hall, Henry	211 395, 582 344, 583

Hall, James	(172)	Howe, Jabez C.	379, (593)
Hall, Joseph	(74)	Howe, Joseph N., Jr.	380
Hallet, George	(160), (449)	Howe, Samuel Gridley	197
Hallet, Henry S.	584	Howes, Frederick	(122)
Hammond, Daniel	135	Howes, Frederick, (Executor)	(533)
Hancock, John	23	Howes, William B.	533
Hancock, John, Jr.	131	Hubbard, John	(143)
Harris, Samuel D.	(48)	Hubbard, Samuel	238
Harvey, Peter	585	Hudson, Sumner	(353)
Hastings, Daniel	(87)	Hunnewell, H. Hollis	481, 594
Haven, Franklin	132, 586	Hurd, Joseph, Jr.	(106)
Hawes, Prince	(448)	Hurd, William	106
Hayden, William	587	Hutchings, William V.	(107)
Hayden, William Augustus	588		
Hayes, Francis Brown	(67), 72		
Hayes, Hercules M.	(178)	I.	
Hays, Judah	(46)		
Hayward, George	218, 589	Inches, Henderson	157
Hayward, James	228	Ingalls, William	(57), 207
Hayward, Joshua H.	(215)	Ingersoll, James	316, 595
Head, Joseph	(12)		
Healey, Mark	77		
Heard, Augustine	453, 590	J.	
Heard, John, Jr.	80		
Henshaw, David	200	Jackson, Charles	147, 596
Henshaw, Samuel	56	Jackson, Charles, Jr.	597
Hicks, James H.	(59), (450)	Jackson, James	192
Higginson, Francis J.	(25)	Jackson, Lydia, (Trustee)	452
Higginson, George	(111)	Jackson, Patrick Tracy	149, (452)
Higginson, Henry	(82)	Jenks, John H.	(178)
Higginson, James Perkins	111	Johnson, James	403
Higginson, Stephen	(82)	Johnson, Samuel	593
Higginson, Stephen, Jr.	(28), (29)	Jones, Anna P.	9, 598
Hill, Thomas, Jr.	(77)	Jones, George B.	599
Hillard, George Stillman	42	Jones, John Coffin	(9)
Hoar, E. Rockwood	66	Jones, Stephen, Jr.	(99)
Hobart, Aaron	(340)	Jones, Thomas K.	(55)
Holbrook, Henry M., Carter, J. B.		Joy, Benjamin	91
& Co.	490		
Holmes, Oliver Wendell	262	K.	
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LIST OF LIFE SUBSCRIBERS

TO THE END OF THE YEAR 1850.

N. B. This list embraces the names (in Italics) of all the members of the Anthology Club except *Arthur Maynard Walter*, who died before the incorporation of the Athenæum. They became entitled to Life-shares by a vote of the Proprietors, passed in 1807.

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<i>Buckminster, Joseph Stevens</i>	Mansfield, Isaac
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Cabot, Frederick	Moody, David J.
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Codman, John	<i>Norton, Andrews</i>
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<i>Dana, Edmund Trowbridge</i>	Payne, William Edward
Dana, Samuel Luther	Pickering, Octavius
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Foster, Leonard	<i>Stickney, John</i>
<i>Gardiner, John Syltvester John</i>	Stuart, Gilbert
<i>Gardiner, Robert Hallowell</i>	Tappan, Charles
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<i>Gorham, John</i>	<i>Thacher, Samuel Cooper</i>
<i>Gray, Thomas</i>	Thorndike, Israel
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Holmes, Abiel	<i>Welles, Benjamin</i>
Jackson, Charles	<i>Wells, William</i>
<i>Jackson, James</i>	<i>Willard, Sidney</i>
<i>Kirkland, John Thornton</i>	Willard, Solomon
Lowell, Edward Jackson	

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTICES

OF

FOUNDERS OF THE BOSTON ATHENÆUM.

a

JOHN SYLVESTER JOHN GARDINER.

JOHN SYLVESTER JOHN GARDINER was descended from one of the early settlers of New England, and was of a family highly respectable and prosperous. His great-grandfather was a lawyer in Rhode Island, and united to the practice of his profession the cultivation of a farm;—a union which, during the colonial period, the narrow sphere of the business of the bar and the scantiness of professional remuneration rendered expedient and not uncommon.

His grandfather, Sylvester Gardiner, manifested, while yet a youth, an ardent desire for the study of medicine. On his attainment of manhood, being impressed with the low state of that science in the Colony, his desire to have the advantage of professional education in Europe became intense; and he proposed to his father, on whose limited resources a large family heavily pressed, to relinquish all future claims on the paternal estate in favor of his brothers and sisters, if the requisite funds for prosecuting his studies in Paris were immediately advanced. On these terms his request was granted; and, after faithfully availing himself of the privilege, he returned to America with a degree of professional knowledge unexampled at that period. The

advantages he thus enjoyed, united to a powerful mind devoted to his profession, soon introduced him to an extensive practice in Boston. He thus acquired great wealth, which he increased by wise investments; and although, as he was a loyalist and refugee, a great proportion of his property was confiscated at the crisis of the American Revolution, enough remained to enable him to make in his will a handsome provision for his descendants.

Being an early proprietor in the Kennebec Purchase, he received, as a portion of his interest in it, a special property in that township which now bears the name of Gardiner. There, and elsewhere in Maine, he erected mills and farm-houses, and made great expenditures for the improvement of that part of the country. This township afterward became, by virtue of his will, the property of Robert Hallowell Gardiner, who now resides in it, respected and honored for his virtues and usefulness, and who was also an early elected member of the Anthology Club,* and one of its active and efficient members.

John, the eldest son of Dr. Sylvester Gardiner, was in early life sent to England for his education. Whilst studying in the Temple he formed an acquaintance with Lord Mansfield, with whom he became a favorite; and, with the assurance of his patronage, he commenced the practice of the law with every prospect of rising in England, in his profession, — uniting, as he did, to the qualifications of a classical scholar, a strong mind, a retentive memory, and great professional assiduity. But, eccentric in character, fearless and independent in action, he took the Whig side, and, to the surprise of Lord Mansfield, appeared as junior counsel in the famous trial of Wilkes, and argued, to general satisfaction, the defence of Mr. Beardmore and Mr. Meredith, who, for writings in support of Wilkes, had been im-

* See *ante*, p. 5.

prisoned on a general warrant.* His zeal on this occasion put an end to all hopes of his rising in that country by court or Tory influence.

While in England, he married a lady of a Welsh family by the name of Harris. Their eldest son, the subject of this memoir, was born in June, 1765, at Haverford West, in South Wales. Soon after this event, Mr. Gardiner, having received the appointment of Attorney-General in the Island of St. Christopher, removed his family to the West Indies, from whence he sent his son to Boston for his education. Here he remained until the commencement of the American Revolution, when he returned to his father in the West Indies, and by him was transferred to England, and placed, in September, 1776, under the tuition and in the family of that celebrated classical scholar, Dr. Samuel Parr. Under his care young Gardiner remained more than six years, when he rejoined his father in the West Indies, and removed with him, in 1783, to Boston.

Having been destined by his father for the bar, his first professional studies took that direction. Circumstances, however, soon concurring with his own inclinations, he entered upon a course of theological preparation, was, in 1787, ordained in New York by Bishop Provost, and soon

* "At Guildhall, before Chief Justice Pratt, subsequently Lord Camden, after a trial which lasted several hours, a verdict was given for Mr. Beardmore with £1,000 damages, and another for Mr. Meredith, his clerk, for £200 damages against the Earl of Halifax and the king's messengers." — *North Briton*, No. 121.

In reference to Mr. Gardiner's aid on these trials, there now remains in the possession of William H. Gardiner, his grandson, a valuable and beautiful piece of plate, bearing the following inscription : —

"Pro libertate semper strenuus.

"To John Gardiner, Esq., this waiter is presented by Arthur Beardmore, as a small token of gratitude for pleading his cause, and that of his clerk, David Meredith, against the Earl of Halifax, then Secretary of State, for false imprisonment under his warrant, commonly called a Secretary of State's warrant, that Canker of English Liberty. — 1766."

after commenced his labors in the Episcopal Church at Beaufort, in South Carolina.

The climate not suiting his constitution, he accepted, in the year 1792, the office of Assistant Minister at Trinity Church in Boston, on the Greene foundation, and retained it till the year 1805, when, on the death of Bishop Parker, he was unanimously elected Rector of that church.

On his marriage, in 1794, finding the income of the Greene foundation insufficient to supply the wants of his family, he opened a school for classical instruction, chiefly in the Greek and Latin languages. The uncommon advantages of his education, and his well-known taste and acquirements, excited expectations in the public mind, which the result more than fulfilled. His school soon became large, and sustained a high reputation during the whole period of its continuance. His system of instruction, being modelled on that of Dr. Parr, was exact and critical. His pupils were made to understand and feel the beauties of the ancient classics. Composition in both Latin and English, reading, and declamation were taught systematically. The benefit of a classical school on the English model, severe and methodical, was realized, and its influence was felt in other schools of the Commonwealth and in our colleges. During the Revolutionary War, classical learning had declined, and it was now at a low ebb. His school, and the spirit in which it was conducted, gave an impetus to these branches, which was perceived in the greater thoroughness of preparation for the colleges, and gradually in higher requisitions for admission into them.

After accepting the rectorship of Trinity Church, he discontinued his school; but, yielding to the urgency of parents, he resumed the instruction of a small and select number of pupils. As an evidence of his familiarity with the ancient classics, and the all-absorbing delight with which, at

every period, he kept alive his acquaintance with them, two facts deserve, in this place, to be recorded. The first appears by the journal of his studies, in his own handwriting. In the course of the first year after he left Dr. Parr's school, being then only nineteen years of age, he read "Virgil, Sallust, Velleius Patereulus, Valerius Maximus, Tacitus, Suetonius, Quintus Curtius, Justin, Florus, Plautus, Terence, Lucretius, Memoirs of the Academy of Inscriptions (twenty volumes), Homer and his Life, D'Alembert's *Mélanges*." And in the last year of his life, when his frame was sinking under the disorder which terminated it, he carefully read the forty-eight books of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* in the original, without the aid of a lexicon or English version. His familiarity with the Latin tongue was still more perfect; and it may be doubted if he left an equal, in this respect, behind him in the United States. The subjoined tribute to the memory of his grandfather, Dr. Sylvester Gardiner, which is inscribed on a marble monument erected in the Episcopal Church in Gardiner, Maine, is from his pen, and is one of the few remaining specimens of his felicity and power in the use of the Latin language.*

* *Sacrum Memoriae*

SYLVESTRI GARDINER,

Qui natus, haud obscuro genere, in insulâ Rhodi,
Studuit Parisiis, et Bostoniæ diu medicinam feliciter

Exercuit. Postquam satis opum paravisset,

Navavit operam ad domandam ornandamque

Hanc orientalem regionem, tunc incultam.

Ilic sylvas latè patentes evertit, molas omnigenas

Ædificavit, omnia rura permultis tuguriis ornavit,

Templum Deo erexit,

Atque hæc loca habitantibus pater-patriæ dici

Profectò meruit.

Vir acerrimo ingenio, medicus sciens,

Maritus fidelis, pius in liberos,

In obeundis negotiis vigilans, sagax, indefessus,

Integer vitæ, in sacris literis doctus,

Christianæ fidei omnino addictus,

These general relations to society he sustained during the remainder of his life, performing both his public and parochial duties with exemplary punctuality ; and enjoying the pleasures of the domestic and social circles, of which he was an ornament and a favorite. His character as a clergyman and a scholar was highly appreciated by his contemporaries. In 1803, Harvard College conferred upon him the degree of Master of Arts, and in 1813 the University of Pennsylvania that of Doctor in Divinity. His thorough acquaintance with Greek, Latin, and English infused a refined and classical spirit into his thoughts and studies, constituting his delight in manhood and his solace in his advancing years. The historians, the poets, and the philosophers of each language were his constant companions in the hours not devoted to social or professional duties.

After the enjoyment of a long life of almost uninterrupted health, in the year 1827 his constitution began gradually to fail. By the advice of his physicians, he sailed for England, accompanied only by his wife and oldest daughter ; and at Harrowgate, where he had resorted for the benefit of its mineral waters, he died, in July, 1830, in the sixty-fifth year of his age.

Exemplary in the fulfilment of the duties of husband, father, and friend, to the domestic and social circles his death was severely afflictive. By his church he was lamented as a faithful pastor, an eloquent preacher, and an

Ecclesiæque Anglicanæ observantissimus,
 Mortuus est in insulâ Rhodi,
 Anno Domini MDCCLXXXVI., ætatis LXXIX.
 Ut viri de Ecclesiâ deque Republicâ optimè meriti
 Memoriam commendaret posteris, suæque insuper
 Erga avum venerandum pietatis monumentum extaret,
 Honorarium hoc marmor erexit
 Nepos hæresque,
 Robertus Hallowell Gardiner.

assiduous benefactor. Having felt the restriction consequent upon the insufficiency of the Greene Fund for the support of an Assistant Minister, he assumed all the duties of the church, both pulpit and pastoral, for a period of twenty years, and thus accumulated the income for the benefit of the foundation till it was adequate to the support of a successor. As a preacher, his discourses, wrought by a classical model, were direct, practical, unpretending. Avoiding controversy, he upheld the doctrines and order of his church with earnestness. Liberal in respect to the opinions of others, he claimed reciprocity for his own. For cant or fanaticism he had neither sympathy nor respect. As a reader he was admired, and his delivery partook of the character of his mind, — simple, graceful, and effective.

Such talents and acquirements naturally gave him a distinguished rank among the scholars of the period. And he was one of the first among those who associated themselves for the purpose of establishing the Anthology Club. His age and acquirements constituted an unquestionable title to the rank of its President, to which office he was unanimously elected from its commencement to his withdrawal from the Society in 1810. His influence on all the measures of that Society was direct and, in a degree, conclusive. Its first meeting was held at his house, on the 3d of October, 1805. Again, at a meeting at his house, on the 23d of the same month, the plan for establishing “a library of periodical publications” was debated and adopted. He first commenced a voluntary contribution to it, by a donation of a complete set of the Gentleman’s Magazine, amounting to sixty or seventy volumes. When, on the motion of William Smith Shaw, the establishment of a public library and reading-room came under debate in the Society, he was chairman of the committee to whom the subject was referred; and again, at his

house, a favorable report of that committee was made, and the plan was adopted, which, being carried into effect, finally expanded into the Boston Athenæum.

To the "Anthology," he was a frequent and efficient contributor. To the chaste severity of his criticism is to be attributed much of the high literary character, which that publication attained. Possessing a lively wit, which occasionally could indulge in playful sarcasm, he permitted nothing to receive the sanction of the Society, while he presided, without strict and searching animadversion. To his opinion on points of literary criticism, the other members, respecting both his comparative age and the uncommon advantages of education he had enjoyed, naturally deferred, and in all their decisions they yielded to him a leading, if not decisive, influence. "He was," said a surviving member of the Anthology Club,* "the life and soul of the Society." Indeed, it could not be otherwise; for his acquaintance with the Greek, Latin, and English classics was extensive, his memory retentive, his power of quotation felicitous; and neither ready wit nor keen satire was ever wanting to give interest to his conversation, and point to his arguments in debate.

* Robert H. Gardiner, Esq.

WILLIAM EMERSON.

WILLIAM EMERSON was born at Concord, Massachusetts, in May, 1769, was graduated at Harvard College in 1789, ordained over the church in Harvard in 1792, installed over the First Church in Boston in 1799, and died in 1811, in the forty-third year of his age.

As a clergyman and a scholar, the course of his life was uniform and regular, furnishing few materials for biography. His father died when he was seven years of age; but, under the care of an excellent mother, his education was judicious, and his talents were wisely and happily developed. At college, his habits of industry became fixed, and he left the seminary with a reputation for talents, learning, and virtue. In youth and in manhood he was distinguished for purity of mind, elevation of principle, tenderness of conscience, and devoutness of feeling.

As a divine, he was diligent and zealous; in his pastoral duties, assiduous and exact. His exemplary fidelity in fulfilling them secured for him private affection and public esteem. The sweetness of his demeanour, being attended with general courtesy, became a ready passport to the heart. He was, consequently, one of the most beloved and popular clergymen of the metropolis.

At that period, the superintendence of literary and charitable institutions in Boston chiefly devolved upon the clergy. In most of these, Mr. Emerson was intrusted with some important office. His methodical strictness in the distribution of his time, his exemplary punctuality in all his engagements, and the fidelity with which he executed every trust, made his talents and services the subject of frequent requisition, which his love of labor and usefulness seldom permitted him to decline.

To the "Monthly Anthology" he was one of the earliest contributors; and of the Society, which was formed in its name and for its support, he was one of the earliest members, and the first Vice-president, often acting as editor of the work, and devoting himself with zeal and laborious fidelity to the advancement of its character and interests. On his motion, seconded by William Smith Shaw, the vote to establish a library of periodical publications was adopted by the Society; and this constituted the first step towards the establishment of the Boston Athenæum.

He died in the midst of his usefulness and in the vigor of manhood, feelingly lamented by the public, intensely by his personal and literary friends.*

* See Buckminster's "Sermon delivered at the Interment of the Rev. William Emerson," Boston, 1811. Also, the "Collections of the Massachusetts Historical Society," Second Series, Vol. I. p. 254.

ARTHUR MAYNARD WALTER.

THE talent, attainments, and high promise of Arthur Maynard Walter made a deep impression on his contemporaries. Their sorrow for his early loss, at the age of twenty-six years, was deep and abiding, and is fully justified by the evidences yet remaining of his intellectual power and moral worth.

His ancestors were all of the stock of the early settlers of New England. On the *paternal* side, he was grandson of the Rev. Nathaniel Walter, for many years a distinguished minister of Roxbury, and great-grandson of the Rev. Increase Mather, one of the most eminent names in our history; and, on the *maternal*, he was grandson of the Hon. Benjamin Lynde, Chief Justice of Massachusetts. For many years antecedent to the war of the American Revolution, his father, the Rev. William Walter, D. D., had been Rector of Trinity Church, in Boston. Under a deep sense of the obligation of his ordination oath to support the king and his country, he took refuge from the turbulent scenes of that period, first in New York, and afterwards at Shelburne in Nova Scotia. On the return of peace, he accepted the office of Rector of Christ Church in Boston.

His son, Arthur Maynard Walter, was born in New York, on the 14th of November, 1780.

Removing with his parents to Boston, he entered the Latin School in the year 1791, where he attained its highest honors; the silver medal awarded him still remains in his family. In the year 1794, being then only in his fourteenth year, he was admitted into Harvard College. He was there also distinguished both for his exemplary conduct and the amount of his literary attainments; and would have graduated in the year 1798, with high honors, had not a dissatisfaction with the part assigned him for Commencement induced him, with the full support of his friends, to refuse to perform it. His degree was, in consequence, withheld; and his friends, taking up his connection with that institution, transferred him to Columbia College in New York, where he was at once admitted, on receiving from Harvard College a certificate of good moral conduct; and, after a year's residence as a student, he was admitted to a degree in 1799, with the highest honors of the institution, and with the reputation of being one of its most distinguished Alumni. Returning to his father's house in Boston, he entered, as a law student, the office of the Hon. Samuel Dexter.

A journal, which he kept from early life, most honorably indicates his ambition for literary and professional eminence, its intensity and correctness, and, above all, the deep-seated piety by which it was accompanied and purified. Having studied the usual term in the office of Mr. Dexter, in September, 1802, he thus wrote in his journal:—"My studies in the law offices are now finished. I have read three years, I hope not unprofitably, and this coming October I should have been admitted into our Court of Common Pleas; but my property is sufficient to bear my expenses in a Southern journey to Washington and other cities in other States, as well as to Europe. I shall go to London. I am to provide a law library, which

is indispensably necessary ; and I also intend to procure a good scientific and literary collection for my hours of variation of study. I shall have to see mankind in new situations, to improve my mind in the numerous scenes to which I shall be a party ; and, under the guidance of Heaven, I hope my time will not be lost, as it regards either the acquisition of knowledge or the improvement of opinion." Again, in a subsequent place, he writes : — " Literature is my object. I shall buy a good library in London. I shall expend \$ 1,500 in law books and a private, choice collection. I mean to buy the corner-stones of learning. These must support the building ; and others, gradually attained, must contribute to its strength and beauty. The gigantic names of Cudworth, Locke, Milton, Selden, and others, will be first obtained, and, if my money be sufficient, my library will not be small. There is a pathway open in this country to a goodly land. I mean to offer my passport at the turnpike-gate. I mean steadily to study when I return from Europe. Diligence alone can add greatness to genius, or produce respectability when talent is wanting. Nothing can supply its place. Imagination, without the sense acquired by industry to restrain and embellish it, is nothing but a wild hippogriff, that plays fantastically in the high heavens and amuses children with its freaks and vagaries. And what is *wit* even, unless illuminated by knowledge ? Acquired by study, indeed, it amuses for a little while, but mere wit is contemptible. Its coruscations are sparkling, perhaps dazzling, but they enlighten not, like the beams of the sun, nor do they please, like the mildness of the moon or the steady lustre of the planets. All knowledge must be acquired from books, conversation, or reflections upon human nature. Genius may quicken progress, give an energy to our researches ; it may illuminate what is obscure. But to know what have been the collected treasures of the

old countries, to investigate our nature by their productions, to measure the mind by the stores of intellect which former ages have furnished, to know how to systematize our researches, how to direct our inquiries, can only be learned from books by continued perseverance in our studies, and by indefatigable diligence in exploring what has been discovered. Whilst I pursue these studies, may I not neglect that religion, which is the pole-star of virtue. I hope to live as becomes a man, a student, and a scholar."

These private records, the secret outpourings of the mind and feelings of Mr. Walter, indicate the purity and strength of that love of excellence, which so concentrated around him the hopes and affections of his friends and companions.

In November, 1802, he embarked for England; and, residing several months in London, he enjoyed the society and companionship of many young men from the United States of great promise, which in future life they redeemed. Among these were Washington Allston, Edmund T. Dana, Charles Lowell, Samuel Welles, and Benjamin Welles. With these friends he partook largely of the intellectual and social pleasures, the taste for which a residence in London was so well adapted to gratify.

His European tour occupied two years, devoted by him to self-improvement, to a critical examination of the events and characters of the literary and political world, as it was then passing before the traveller's vision, and to the acquisition of five or six languages in which he had already made some progress. His journal bears uninterrupted evidence of the justness of his thoughts, the elevation of his motives, and the purity of his life, of which religion was the moving principle and guide. It shows that he had already collected materials for critical remarks upon various authors, and for a series of periodical essays, and had submitted to

his friends Dana and Allston some of the papers he had prepared for publication, and received their encouragement and approbation.

With Joseph Stevens Buckminster, William Smith Shaw, and other founders of the Anthology Club, he maintained the strictest intimacy and correspondence, and on his return to Boston, in 1804, entered readily into schemes of literary labor and enterprise, which resulted, in 1805, in the formation of that Society of which he was, during his whole life, the Secretary, and one of the most active and laborious members.

In all the arrangements and negotiations, which preceded and followed the transfer of that Society's library and reading-room, he had a leading influence, and he took a lively interest in the consequent establishment of the Boston Athenæum.

He at the same time commenced his professional career with high hopes and commendable ambition. But his heart was devoted to literature, and was ceaseless in its yearnings to accomplish some literary work "worthy of a man and a Christian." About this time he wrote to a friend,—"I have various things to learn before I can become a marked character, either political or literary. I hope, one day, to do something which will be worthy of being remembered. I hope that the great Father of all will continue to give me his favor of health and competency. I could hope to extend the empire of morals and religion by some work of merit. In America, letters are not too much encouraged; yet perhaps my fortune may enable me to print my own work. I have ambition and perseverance for honor and virtue. The latter especially; for how foolish is earthly greatness in comparison with the rewards of religion and virtue!" But his aspirations were not destined to be realized, nor was he long permitted to enjoy the success of

the institution. In October, 1806, the symptoms of a rapid consumption appeared, which terminated his life on the 2d day of January, 1807, when he had just entered the twenty-seventh year of his age.

The lamentations on his death were deep and general. A letter from Joseph Stevens Buckminster, dated London, the 22d of February, 1807, evidences the strength of his affection for Walter, and his affliction at the irreparable loss he had sustained by that event.

“Burning with impatience, I open my letters from America. They tell me that Walter is dead! — O, dear, dear fellow! have I lost you for ever? Alas! I am ashamed of myself, of the weakness of my faith. When I left you all, to come to Europe, the parting was painful in the extreme, but continually relieved by the belief, that I should see you all again after some time of absence. I ought to feel that it is the same thing now with respect to Walter. My absence from him is only a little lengthened. The voyage of my life will not be very long, and we shall embrace again.”

“My dear Shaw, I wish I was with you to give vent to my sorrow. I cannot do it on paper. It is a cold, idle, slow method, and, instead of relieving, it oppresses me. I look to the great promises and expectations which the Gospel holds out. They tell me I shall see him again in a world more worthy of his noble, pure, pious heart than this, if I shall be worthy to reach that world myself. But the great duty is to resign ourselves to the loss, till we meet him again. This is difficult. Even Jesus wept at the tomb of Lazarus, though he knew that his power could restore him again to life. ‘Behold how he loved him,’ said the Jews. We surely may weep. Alas! we may go to him, but he cannot return to us.”

In the same affectionate strain, Mr. Shaw responds in a letter dated Boston, May 13th, 1807. “I do most sincere-

ly congratulate you, my dear Buckminster, on the flattering prospect you have of the restoration of your health. This is the only consideration which, in any degree, reconciles me to your longer absence ; for I do most ardently wish for your return. Since the death of our friend Walter, I have regretted your absence, and wished for your company, more than ever. O my dear friend, how little did we anticipate this most grievous dispensation of God's holy providence, when we last parted ! A thousand little incidents relative to his sickness and death forcibly impress themselves on my mind ; and, if God shall be pleased to permit us to meet again, I will detail them to you with melancholy pleasure. I need not tell you, who were so well acquainted with us both, how much I loved him, and how worthy he was of admiration and esteem. There was no good I ever enjoyed, there was no pleasure I ever anticipated, with which Walter was not most intimately associated. But my dear friend is dead ! I ought not to complain ; God's will be done ! How many delightful hours have we passed together in conversing about you, my friend, in recollecting the pleasures of former days, in social converse, in felicitating you on the advantages we flattered ourselves you would enjoy from your travels, in your health and intellectual improvement, and with what transport did we anticipate your return ! O my God ! of such pleasures, departed never to return, how painful the remembrance ! ”

Under the influence of the same intense affection for the memory of this his youthful friend, Mr. Buckminster, in August, 1809, when illustrating, in his Address before the Phi Beta Kappa Society at Harvard College, “the cause of religion and the fidelity of the learned,” poured forth the following eloquent and touching tribute to Walter's memory : —

“ Do you want examples of learned Christians ? I could

not recount them all in an age. You need not be told that

‘ Learning has borne *such* fruit, in other days,
On all her branches ; piety has found
Friends in the friends of science, and true prayer
Has flowed from lips wet with Castalian dews.’

Yes, it has ! We have known and loved such men, and, thank God, have been loved by them. There is now present to my mind the image of a scholar, whom some of you know (for he was one of us), and those who knew him well will say, with me, he was as pure a spirit as ever tasted the dew of Castalia. — How would Walter have delighted in this anniversary ! He would have heard me ! me, who am now left to speak of him only, and ask for him the tribute, the passing tribute, of your grateful recollection. He would have heard me ! It may be, that he now hears me, and is pleased with this tribute.

‘ Manibus date lilia plenis ;
Purpureos spargam flores, animamque *amici*
His saltem accumulem donis, et fungar inani
Munere.’ ” *

Nor can this brief sketch of the life and character of Mr. Walter close with a more appropriate tribute, than that which his friends in the Anthology Club bestowed, in their publication for the month in which he died.

“ In Memoriam
ARTHUR MAYNARD WALTER,
Boni,
Juris ac omnium
Rerum
Literis attinentium

* “ Bring fragrant flowers, the whitest lilies bring,
With all the purple beauties of the spring ;
On the dear youth, to please his shade below,
This unavailing gift, at least, I may bestow ! ”

Dryden and Pitt.

Supra suam ætatem
Valde periti.
Anno Domini
Millesimo octingentesimo septimo,
Ætatis suæ
Vicesimo sexto,
Januarii
Die secundo,
Splendidiorem inire
Hanc vitam reliquit.

Eheu, vos charum tam perdere sanguine junctos !
Eheu, vos comites miseros tam perdere fidum !
Eheu, vos Musas tristes tam perdere amicum !
Eheu, mundum infelicem tam perdere rectum !
Tristes dilectam sobolem plorate, Camænæ !
Occidis, infelix puer, ah ! memorande per ævum,
Nulla tuam poterit virtutem abolere vetustas."

WILLIAM SMITH SHAW.

AMONG those whose labors contributed to the foundation of the Boston Athenæum, William Smith Shaw is preëminently entitled to distinct and grateful commemoration. If not the first, he was among the earliest to conceive the design. In forming and executing that plan for a public reading-room, which led to it, he was chiefly active. In obtaining that act of incorporation which gave the Athenæum existence, and, subsequently, in procuring for it subscribers, his zeal and efforts were unremitted. During the long, succeeding period in which its early movements were embarrassed by the inadequacy of its resources to its objects, he was ceaseless and indefatigable in his endeavours to enlarge its means of usefulness, by seeking out patrons and exciting public interest in its favor. In connection with this institution, the memory of no one better deserves to be preserved and gratefully cherished, for intelligent zeal and efficient efforts for its establishment and success. His labors, indeed, were confined to a narrow circle, but they embraced in their horizon the whole sphere of literature and science. Though humble and unpretending, they had for their object the forming and feeding an intellectual lamp, destined to cast its light through all time and over the whole land.

William Smith Shaw was the son of the Rev. John Shaw, a clergyman settled at Haverhill, in Massachusetts, of classical taste and literary acquirements. These he employed, enlarged, and brightened by the instruction of youth for college; the pecuniary embarrassment incident and subsequent to the war of the Revolution having rendered the parochial support of clergymen limited and precarious. His mother, Elizabeth Smith, was the daughter of the Rev. William Smith of Weymouth, and the sister of Mrs. Abigail Adams (the wife of John Adams, the second President of the United States), whose talents and acquirements have been recently and happily illustrated in a Memoir, by her grandson, Charles Francis Adams.

Mrs. Shaw was not less distinguished than her sister for intellectual power and literary attainments. Though she was called to move in a different and less public circle, it was far from being contracted. In it she gave proof of being alike gifted by nature and distinguished for attainments of mind and virtues of the heart. In the excellence of maternal influence, the most effectual and conclusive on the character of a child, William Smith Shaw enjoyed great and seldom exceeded advantages. He was born on the 12th of August, 1778. Feeble in original constitution, with a tendency from childhood to chronic rheumatism, he was early subjected to the restraints and trials incident to sickness; in the intervals of which, books became to him a source of enjoyment, as well as of improvement. The desire of accumulating and preserving them gradually grew into a passion, which in the progress of years became insatiable and almost exclusive.

Though ill health impeded, it did not prevent or long postpone, his entrance into Harvard College, which took place in the year 1794, and in the sixteenth year of his age. His prospects there were, however, soon clouded by the death of

his father, and the consequent want of pecuniary means to defray the expenses of his education. By the aid of friends and an occasional exertion in school-keeping he was enabled to graduate regularly in 1798. The success of his collegiate studies was embarrassed by the feebleness of his constitution; yet, while in college, his associations and intimacies were among those most distinguished for their literary acquisitions, many of whom were afterwards fellow-workers with him in founding the Anthology Club, or in contributing by their writings to the periodical publication, with which its name and character were connected.

After graduating, he received from John Adams, then President of the United States, the appointment of his Private Secretary, and became a resident in his family, in Philadelphia. Here his love of literature, early instilled by his mother, was further excited by the influence of her sister, Mrs. Adams, and of the circle of which this lady was the delight and the ornament.

It appears, from his letters to his friends, that, at this early period of his life, his mind became deeply impressed by the lowness of the standard of literature in the United States, and earnestly possessed with the desire of adopting measures to enlarge and elevate it. Availing himself of the opportunities his official position afforded, and as one means of aiding the advancement of literature, he commenced that extensive and valuable collection of tracts, which now constitutes one of the richest portions of the library of the Boston Athenæum.

At this period, he had the melancholy but interesting duty to perform of visiting Mount Vernon, and of bearing, in his official capacity, the Resolve of Congress of the 23d of December, 1799, expressing to Mrs. Washington their condolence at her bereavement, and their request that the remains of her husband might be deposited in the city of

Washington, and of bearing, in return, her touching and dignified reply.

Early in 1801, Mr. Shaw left the family of President Adams, and entered, as a student of law, the office of William Sullivan, Esq., of Boston, and continued in it until his admission to the bar in 1804. While resident in Philadelphia, Mr. Shaw's interest in the advancement of letters was manifested by the active zeal with which he encouraged, in every way in his power, the literary enterprises of the period; and particularly by the earnestness and diligence with which he exerted himself to promote a subscription for the "Port-Folio," a periodical work then commencing, and which subsequently obtained an enviable celebrity under the editorial care of Joseph Dennie, a name distinguished in the literary history of that period. While a student in Boston, in the office of Mr. Sullivan, the same tendency of his disposition was apparent from the like active interest with which he solicited subscriptions for Marshall's "Life of Washington," and for a public monument to this first and greatest of American patriots, and in favor of every project he deemed worthy of public patronage.

In this connection, also, should not be omitted the more than fraternal kindness which through life he extended to that estimable and meritorious authoress, Hannah Adams, by assisting her with books, procuring for her friends, obtaining subscriptions for her works, and afterwards, when age and infirmities had visited her, obtaining an annuity for her support, superintending all her concerns, and contributing in every way to her comfort. His attention and kindness were the frequent topics of that lady's acknowledgments, accompanied by intense expressions of gratitude.

Early in the year 1805, Mr. Shaw with other literary men, formed the Anthology Club, which took upon itself

the responsibility of a periodical work entitled "The Monthly Anthology." The objects of that association coincided with the prevailing current of his thoughts. With Arthur Maynard Walter and Joseph Stevens Buckminster, as a committee, he formed the Constitution of that Society, of which he was the first Treasurer, and an *ex officio* member of its Standing Committee; and after the lapse of a year, on the resignation of Samuel Cooper Thacher, he was appointed Superintending Committee of their publication,—a designation by which they had agreed to express the office and duty of editor. He seconded the motion of Mr. Emerson for the establishment of "a Library of periodical publications for the use of the Society," and was one of the first contributors to it. He was also the first to suggest, and was principally active in, the making that library public, and connecting it with a public reading-room, which was the direct and earliest efficient step towards the establishment of the Boston Athenæum.

Of the measures which succeeded to this first step, and which resulted in the incorporation, and, finally, in the successful foundation of that institution, no better accounts exist, than those contained in Mr. Shaw's letters to Mr. Buckminster, who was then in Europe. Of a letter written by him to this gentleman, dated on the 1st of December, 1806, a copy exists among Mr. Shaw's papers, which so distinctly displays his zeal for the interests, and acquaintance with the wants, of the institution he was so instrumental in founding, that it deserves to be presented to the public at length in this biographical notice.

"Boston, December 1st, 1806.

"DEAR BUCKMINSTER, — I know you will be delighted to hear of the progress we have made in the reading-room and library, which has much surpassed the expectation of

even the most sanguine of us. We have one hundred and sixty subscribers at ten dollars a year, consisting of the most respectable gentlemen in Boston, with the probability of having two hundred subscribers, at least, the moment the rooms are opened. We have taken rooms in Congress Street, in what are called Joy's Buildings, which we shall occupy till the spring, when we expect to be able to procure more commodious rooms. We have had nearly a thousand volumes of valuable books presented to us, and one hundred and sixty dollars in cash. The institution is a very popular one, and there is a strong inclination discovered to patronize it on a very extensive plan; and I have very little doubt, that in a few years we shall see a library in our beloved Boston inferior to none in America. If we do not, it will be owing altogether to want of exertion on the part of our literary men, whose duty it is to awake from their stupid lethargy, and to rescue our country from the scorn and derision which now lie so heavily upon her.

“ We propose that the whole property of the institution shall be vested in a number of Trustees, not exceeding eleven, seven of whom to be chosen from the Anthology Society, the remaining four to be gentlemen out of the Society; the trustees so chosen to have the sole and exclusive management of the institution. Dr. Kirkland, Mr. Emerson, Peter Thacher, Walter, and myself, are chosen from the Anthology Society, and we intend to choose your Honor to be one the moment you come home. Chief Justice Parsons, Mr. John Lowell, and Mr. Freeman, we have also chosen, none of whom have yet made known their acceptance but Mr. Parsons, who very readily complied with our request, much to the joy of us all. As soon as the Trustees can be called together, they are to choose a President, Vice-President, Recording and Corresponding Secretaries, Treasurer, &c. &c. Mr. Parsons is to be chosen President, Walter

will probably be chosen Corresponding Secretary, and your humble servant Recorder.

“ In drawing up the regulations, we have followed very closely the laws of the Athenæum of Liverpool, for which I am greatly indebted to your kindness in transmitting immediately on your arrival at Liverpool. It is an admirable institution, and we intend to make ours as much like that as the different circumstances of the two countries will admit. I pray you to make it an object to collect as much information as will be in your power respecting all literary societies, catalogues of their libraries, their laws, &c. &c. They will be pleasant to have in our reading-room, at least, and thus may be made useful in America, to stimulate our countrymen to some important mental exertions. I wish you could be prevailed upon to avail yourself of the advantages your residence in London this winter will afford you, to collect information relative to the literature of England, its colleges, schools, scientific institutions, literary men, &c. &c., and publish a series of papers in our dearly cherished ‘ Anthology ’ on the present state of English literature, which I am very certain would be novel, interesting, and useful to the people of this country. Write a series of letters from England to us in America, as Laharpe wrote from Paris to the Emperor Paul the First, of Russia. He was engaged in a correspondence with the Emperor for five years, which, since Laharpe’s death, has been published in four volumes. He sent to the young prince all the literary and political news of Paris, and judged of men and books with all the freedom which a literary correspondence admits. The work is wonderfully interesting. It will be read by men of letters and men of fashion. The first will find much correct criticism, the second, pleasant anecdote, and all, variety, which you know is always charming.

“ I inclose to you, with this, a bill of exchange, payable to you, and drawn upon Samuel Williams, Esq., for six hundred dollars, — five hundred of which are to be expended in procuring books for the reading-room, and to be sent out as early in the spring as possible. The intention of the Trustees is to appropriate the money arising from subscriptions as follows : — After the necessary expenses of the institution are paid, the first object will be to provide for the rooms all the celebrated gazettes published in any part of the United States ; the most interesting literary and political pamphlets in Europe and America ; magazines, reviews, and scientific journals in the English and French languages ; London and Paris newspapers ; Steel’s Army and Navy List, Naval Chronicle, London and Paris booksellers’ catalogues, Parliamentary Debates, bibliographical works, voyages and travels, valuable maps and charts. The gazettes and pamphlets of our own country we can, of course, procure without troubling you ; but we wish you to take such measures as will insure to us the early transmission of all interesting pamphlets published in England on important subjects, — the average amount for the year not to exceed three dollars per month ; that is, we are willing to appropriate thirty-six dollars a year of our funds for English pamphlets, including booksellers’ catalogues. If your friends, Mr. Samuel and Francis Williams, could be persuaded to undertake this commission after you leave England, they would be the best men in the world for this purpose. At any rate, we shall depend on your selecting some person of judgment, in whom we may confide, for the punctual discharge of this part of our engagement to supply the room with English pamphlets.

“ English magazines, reviews, &c. These publications we have thought it most expedient to procure, for the present at least, through the agency of Mr. William Skinner,

an English gentleman connected with a house in London, whose card I inclose to you, and would wish you to call upon them and converse with them on the objects of the institution, and urge upon them the necessity of most punctual communication. I inclose to you, with this, a list of all the publications we have ordered from England, with a request that you would order any others you should think proper. We wish particularly for Dr. Aikin's new magazine, the *Athenæum*, Arthur Aikin's *Annual Review*, to be sent out in numbers, beginning with the first number of the fifth volume, and, indeed, for all the distinguished periodical journals in England. If you think, therefore, that we have not ordered a sufficient number, you are at perfect liberty to make any additions you please. You will observe, that we have only sent for three newspapers, — the *Morning Chronicle*, the *Courier*, and *Bell's Weekly Messenger*, — which are as many as we thought our funds would allow of at present. If you think we ought to have one more, you may direct it to be sent to us. To collect valuable maps and charts is one of the prime objects of the institution, and ought to be immediately attended to. You will therefore appropriate a part of the money sent you with this (say, perhaps, one hundred dollars) to the purchasing of two or three good Atlases of standard reputation.

“After having furnished the room with newspapers, magazines, maps and charts, &c. &c., as above mentioned, the second object of the Trustees will be to supply the library with the most valuable Encyclopædias of the arts and sciences in the French and English languages, with standard dictionaries of the learned and modern languages, also dictionaries, critical, biographical, &c., and books of general reference, useful to the merchant and scholar. We have already procured the American edition of Rees's Encyclopædia as far as it has been published. We have also had

presented to us a superb edition of Dr. Aikin's Johnson's Dictionary, in four large octavo volumes, by my friend, Joseph Tilden. Books printed on the Continent we can probably purchase cheaper by sending to Paris and Holland, than you could be able to procure them in London. I should not, therefore, advise you to purchase books of this kind; but of this you will be a much better judge than myself. I merely mention it by way of suggestion, leaving it entirely to your discretion. Some of the money, I should think, ought to be appropriated to purchase standard works upon commerce and books of useful reference to the merchants, as most of our subscribers are of this class. Mr. Samuel Williams could recommend to you some books of this kind. There is a work on this subject reviewed in the sixteenth number of the Edinburgh Review, entitled, I believe, Macpherson's "Annals of Commerce," which I should think we ought to have. You ought to send us out, also, some miscellaneous books, useful to the loungers, — such, perhaps, as a complete edition of the English classics, such as the Spectator, Guardian, &c., with Drake's Essays on these periodical writers, &c. &c. The books you purchase must be all good editions, printed on good paper, and well bound; but take care not to be too extravagant.

"I have thus, my dear Buckminster, detailed to you the objects to which we conceive the income of our institution ought for the present to be appropriated, and, with this information, send the five hundred dollars to you to procure such books for the institution as your judgment shall dictate, with an entire confidence that the money will be appropriated in such a manner as will advance the interests and extend the patronage of the establishment, which I am very sensible you have much at heart. All the newspapers and literary publications, which we procure through the kindness of Mr. Skinner, we expect to pay for here, and have made our arrangements accordingly.

“ You must be very sensible, that the success of an institution like ours will depend very much on the punctuality and despatch with which we receive our foreign newspapers, pamphlets, new books, and periodical publications. I cannot urge upon you, therefore, too strongly the necessity of adopting such measures, before you embark for this country, as will best secure to us these great objects. I would beg leave to suggest to you the expediency of selecting a confidential bookseller in London ; promise that we will purchase all our books of him ; let him supply us with all our newspapers, magazines, &c., — in short, every thing we shall want from England ; tell him that our institution promises to be a permanent one, that we shall probably send to England from one thousand to fifteen hundred dollars per year, to be expended in books. With such inducements, I should think some one might be persuaded to make considerable exertion to comply with our requisitions. If you should adopt any plan of this kind, you must give information to Skinner’s house, in London.

“ I send you one hundred dollars, on my own account, with which I wish you to procure for me the best edition of Shakspeare’s Plays, with all the prefaces, notes, commentaries, &c. &c., which I suppose to be Reed’s ; Dr. Aikin’s edition of Dr. Johnson’s dictionary, in four volumes, octavo, both to be well bound in calf ; Dibdin’s bibliographical works ; and, if these should not amount to one hundred dollars, any other books you may please to procure for me. Alas ! I have no more time to write at present. Remember me most affectionately to Mr. Thacher. Consult him about the reading-room. Love me always, and believe me to be, most sincerely, yours most affectionately,

“ WM. S. SHAW.”

In a letter to the same gentleman, on the 13th of the same month, Mr. Shaw displays a like earnest and indefatigable spirit.

"Boston, 13 December, 1806.

"DEAR BUCKMINSTER, — I wrote to you by the Galen a long letter, and inclosed to you a bill of exchange drawn upon Samuel Williams, Esquire, for six hundred dollars, which letter I presume you have received. It ought to be a considerable object, I should think, in the purchase of books for our library, to procure such valuable works as are least common in this town and most difficult to be procured in this country. The publications relative to the literary fund in England I have never seen in this country, and, if they have any merit, I think you had best procure them. Rare books relative to the history of this country, or the West India Islands, &c. &c., ought to be obtained. The publications of literary associations of eminence in Great Britain we ought to procure. Perhaps such letters might be addressed to the societies as would induce them to present copies of their publications to our institution; but of this you are the better judge. I send you, inclosed with this, ten copies of our Prospectus, that you may distribute them in a manner most likely to promote the great objects of our institution. In my last, I suggested to you the expediency of selecting some bookseller in London who would undertake to supply us with every thing we wanted, and who would be responsible for the punctual and early transmission of all our newspapers and literary publications. This is a very great object, and the prosperity and advancement of the institution depend very much on the success of our exertions in this particular. I would further suggest, whether it would not be possible to make some arrangements with the Athenæum and Lyceum in Liverpool, that would operate beneficially to our establishment. The librarians of those institutions might possibly be induced to send us some of the numerous publications which they receive. I have frequently seen, in this town,

at our printing-offices, English newspapers, with the name of 'Athenæum' stamped upon them, and which, I have understood, came from that institution. These institutions must receive a number of newspapers, magazines, &c. &c., and often duplicates, which they do not care to preserve, and would be willing to send to us at a very low price; — also political pamphlets.

"I think you might also advance the interests of our establishment by conversing with the Americans, particularly the Bostonians, in England, on the utility and the pleasure which will probably be afforded by an institution on our plan. In my exertions here, I have generally succeeded beyond my most sanguine expectations in obtaining subscriptions, and donations in books as well as money. The plan is a very popular one, and almost every one is desirous of doing something to promote its objects. If you choose to exercise the influence which I know you must possess over your American acquaintance in England, and I think it is your duty to do it, I have no doubt but that you might obtain some very valuable donations to the library. I should advise you to give one of our pamphlets to every generous American, with some observation which may induce him to make some exertion to promote the interests of the establishment.

"There are many Englishmen, such as Sir John Sinclair, &c., who are pleased to take a very lively interest in every thing relating to American affairs, and who, I have no doubt, would be very much delighted in promoting the objects of our establishment. These gentlemen might be very useful in influencing the learned societies to make donations of their publications. I should also think it very proper to establish a correspondence with some learned men in England, to whom we might be permitted to write in behalf of the institution, and who might be the means of our

procuring rare, valuable works, out of print, which we could not otherwise obtain. Mr. Benjamin Vaughan, here, has recommended us to his brother William, and has promised to give us letters to him. In my former letter, I requested you to procure some books of reputation for the merchants. In addition, I would suggest to you the propriety of purchasing Oddy's 'European Commerce,' reviewed in the Monthly Review for August last. I send you, with this, a second bill of exchange, drawn upon Samuel Williams, Esq., for six hundred dollars; five hundred to be laid out in books for the reading-room, as I wrote in my former letter, and one hundred on my own account. . . .

"The gentlemen of the Anthology Society desire to be particularly remembered to you and our friend Thacher. We meet now in Congress Street, under the same roof with the reading-room; and Cooper, who is to keep the library, provides for us. Our subscribers gradually increase, and the publication seems to be rising in reputation. The booksellers and printers begin to think us of some consequence, and send us most of their publications. We frequently drink a bumper to the health of our good friends in Europe, and with much sincerity wish them pleasure and improvement from their travels. We often regret we have not been favored with some communications for the Anthology, but anticipate with pleasure the time when they will come *en masse*. Mr. Thacher must not fail to fulfil his promise, and we expect a whole budget in the spring. Phillips, in London, has sent us an answer to the letter which we wrote to him last spring, thanking us for the numbers of the Anthology which we sent him, speaking in a very flattering manner of the publication, and saying that he should be very happy to interchange with us; but he has as yet sent us none of his numbers. If it is not too much trouble, I wish either you or Thacher would call upon him, and converse with him

on the subject. I should think it would be worth while to make the same attempt of an interchange with other periodical publications in London. I also wish that one of you would cause the plan of our institution to be published in the Monthly Magazine, and perhaps some other publications, with such observations as you may think proper. Professors McKean and Willard are on nomination for members of our Society. You have already heard of Dr. Kirkland being a member; we find him very pleasant as a sociable man. We have now completed our third volume, and we flatter ourselves that the last is very much the best. We commence the new year with a firm determination to persevere, and we flatter ourselves, that, with our own exertions, and with such foreign aid as we may procure, we shall be able to make the publication still more valuable."

In obtaining an act of incorporation, in soliciting subscriptions, and in organizing the first movements of the Athenæum, Mr. Shaw's labors were efficient and unremitting. From the moment its operations commenced, he devoted himself to the success and enlargement of the institution. His interest and zeal are well developed in the following letter to Mr. Buckminster, written after the act of incorporation was obtained.

" Boston, 13 May, 1807.

"DEAR BUCKMINSTER, — From the pamphlets which I send to you with this, of which you have several for distribution as you think proper, you will see that the Trustees of the Anthology Reading-room and Library have obtained an act of incorporation by the name of 'The Proprietors of the Boston Athenæum.' I doubt very much whether there ever has been an institution in this country, which has made such rapid advances as ours; and I can now congratulate you on

the prospect of having a library in this town, — which you always seemed to believe was only a delusion of my idle brain, — on a liberal plan, highly honorable to the munificence of our citizens, and which will assist and facilitate the researches of the learned and gratify the curiosity of strangers. This, with me, I can assure you, is no ordinary subject of congratulation. Depend upon it, that the establishment of the Athenæum, the rooms of which are to be always accessible at all hours of the day, is one of the greatest strides toward intellectual advancement that this country has ever witnessed. We have every reason to believe that the hundred and fifty shares will be taken up, which, at three hundred dollars a share, will give us forty-five thousand dollars. We already have fifty shares subscribed for, and there are about thirty gentlemen beside, who have promised to subscribe. We shall not trouble ourselves for life-subscribers till the permanent shares are taken up, which I undertake to say will be the case in the course of three weeks at least, and perhaps in less time.

“ You did very right to send us the *Oxford Review*, though I do not think much of the numbers I have read. As our funds are very much increased, we can now afford to take all the English literary magazines of any eminence, and you are at liberty to add any to the list you please. What merit has the *Panorama*, a new publication I see advertised? We are perfectly satisfied with the arrangements made in London with Jenner, for the periodical publications. They come out as regularly as we could expect to receive them from London; but we wish that there might be some arrangement in Liverpool, so that no vessel should sail for Boston without some papers for us. Could you not make some agreement with the Athenæum, Lyceum, or Union Society, to send out some papers, different from those we already have, at half-price? You must not send us out any

books on credit. Remember me, with all possible affection, to dear Thacher. In great haste, dear Buckminster, yours,
W. S. SHAW."

Although Mr. Shaw had diligently pursued the study of the law, yet, after his admission to the bar, the strong bias of his mind was towards the advancement of general literature; and his friends, who continually perceived this, were desirous that his predilection should not be constrained, and that some situation might be offered him better adapted for its indulgence. It was, therefore, with much gratification that they received notice, in 1806, of his appointment to the office of Clerk of the District Court of Massachusetts, by the Hon. John Davis, the District Judge. He was thus called from the general practice of the law, and from solving the anxious problem of success or failure in the competition for professional honors and emoluments, and acquired leisure to devote himself to the advancement of the Athenæum, which gradually became the almost exclusive object of his thoughts, and not so much a desire as a passion. His pecuniary means now also enabled him to pursue his taste for collecting curious and rare books, pamphlets, medals, and coins, all of which he deposited in the Library, or among the archives of the institution, with little regard to preserve the evidence of his right to property in these collections; so completely did he identify his own interests with its success.

The progress of the institution, and his unabated and untiring exertions in its behalf, are also displayed in a letter addressed to Sterling Goodenow, of Albany, in April, 1810, of which the following copy remains among the papers of Mr. Shaw.

"MY DEAR SIR,—I have much to regret that a ses-

sion of the District Court of Salem has prevented me from receiving and answering your very acceptable and polite letter of the 12th of March, till this date. In answer to your very flattering inquiries about the Athenæum, I would state that we have published nothing since 1807, and the officers of the institution remain the same as at that time. In about three weeks we shall have our Catalogue through the press, (one hundred and fifty pages of which are now already published,) which, when finished, I shall avail myself of the first opportunity to transmit to you.

“It is with no small satisfaction that I proceed to inform you of the wonderful progress of this dear institution, the advantages of which, in a town like Boston, excite all my wishes and call forth all my exertions ; and its evident utility is calculated, I flatter myself, to interest the friends of literature throughout the United States. In July last we removed from the place in Scollay’s Buildings, where I have often had the pleasure to meet you, to a house in Tremont Street, near the Stone Chapel, which we purchased for nine thousand dollars ; the house was formerly occupied by R. G. Amory, but was inhabited when you were in Boston by Doyle & Bowen, whose Museum is in a brick building down the yard. This house, which is large and capacious, we have prepared in such a manner as to accommodate the subscribers and proprietors for the present very acceptably ; but our library increases so fast that we begin seriously to reflect on the necessity of a splendid and permanent building. We have now a library of more than seven thousand volumes, and are expecting from England by the first arrival books to the amount of twenty-five hundred dollars. These books are the property of the institution. In addition to which, we have, deposited, a most wonderful collection of books belonging to John Quincy Adams, amounting nearly to six thousand volumes, which he left

with us when he embarked for Petersburg, — so that the books now in the institution amount to nearly thirteen thousand volumes, which, I presume, make one of the first libraries in the United States.

“ On the class of books relative to this country, — on their immense value in a literary institution in the metropolis of New England, I have often had the pleasure to converse with you. When you see our Catalogue, you will find that we have a considerable collection, but that it is very far from being complete. It is a favorite object of mine to collect as many of the laws, the journals, the state papers, the maps, reports of cases decided in courts of justice, and the newspapers published in each State, as is practicable. The immense advantages of such a collection must be obvious to you. I have a thousand thanks to offer you for the kind interest you are pleased to take in the Athenæum, and particularly for your exertions in aiding us in this branch of the institution. Any journals of your legislature, any state papers, any pamphlets, &c. &c., that you may procure for us, will, I assure you, be most gratefully received and acknowledged by the Trustees and Proprietors, and most particularly by myself. The volumes of Journals which your friend, the Clerk, has been good enough to offer the Athenæum, I shall consider as a very valuable acquisition, and wish you to offer in the name of the institution our most grateful acknowledgments.

“ Files of old newspapers are in this country most valuable historical documents. We have some complete files printed in Boston as early as 1727, but for three years only. We then go down to years 1760, from which time to the present period we have them complete. Is it possible to procure a set of the ‘Balance,’ which I consider an immensely able and well-edited paper? Could not Mr. Crosswell, if he were to be made acquainted with the institution, be persuad-

ed to present a set ? Is it possible to procure an old edition of the Laws of New York ? We have a curious copy of the Laws of Massachusetts, published in 1660, at Cambridge, with the following title : — ‘The Book of the General Lawes and Libertyes concerning the Inhabitants of the Massachuset, collected out of the Records of the General Court,’ &c., and I feel a great inclination to procure as early an edition of the laws of the different States in the Union, where such have been published. Electioneering pamphlets are also worthy of being collected and preserved in a public library. By the way, what book has Mr. Platt, your candidate for Governor, written ? Can you procure it for me ? The Journals of the Legislature, after all, are the most important object of collection. If you will be so obliging as to make some considerable exertion to collect as many of them for me as you can, you will do me and the institution a great favor.”

From that time until just before his death, he occupied the office of Librarian and general superintendent, and fulfilled all the duties incident to it without compensation or reward. On the contrary, having acquired a property, by his office of Clerk of the District Court, more than adequate to his personal wants, he, with a characteristic indifference to pecuniary considerations when brought into competition with his master-passion, so connected his private property with that of the Athenæum, by the purchase of books, medals, and coins, that at his death it was quite impossible satisfactorily to discriminate the one from the other. His executor, brother-in-law, and legal representative, the Rev. Joseph B. Felt, found that the amount of his just demands against the Athenæum exceeded ten thousand dollars ; it being capable of proof, that, in

the purchase of books, coins, and medals, he had expended and vested in the Athenæum more than six thousand dollars of his own property, and that he had rights in other portions of the property of the institution, and, above all, in that large and most valuable collection of tracts, of which he had always retained the proprietorship,—all which could not be estimated at less than four thousand dollars. Under these circumstances, Mr. Felt, feeling satisfied that it was the intention of Mr. Shaw to appropriate this portion of his property for the benefit of the Athenæum, and being desirous to carry into effect his relative's intentions, voluntarily and most liberally executed a release of the whole claim, and thereby constituted Mr. Shaw a benefactor to the institution of that amount.

The intensity with which Mr. Shaw devoted himself to the interests of the Athenæum, and the universally known personal and pecuniary aid he thus extended to it during seventeen or eighteen years of his life, obtained for him the *sobriquet* of 'Athenæum Shaw,' by which he was frequently and familiarly designated.

Mr. Shaw did not aspire to the fame of a writer, nor to the name of a man of letters ; yet his talents, though unpretending, were far from being of a common order. His taste in the fine arts was discriminating. To excite in his countrymen an interest and affection for them was his ceaseless, untiring endeavour. His knowledge of the relative value of books, coins, and medals, was accurate and extensive. His reading on these subjects was various ; and, as his memory was retentive, he was well fitted to be the guide of others in antiquarian and historical researches. As a friend and adviser, he was eagerly sought by those engaged in such pursuits. His learning and worth were seen and appreciated by his associates and

contemporaries. Early in life, he was chosen a member of various literary societies; in 1806, of the Massachusetts Historical Society; in 1810, of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; in 1813, of the American Antiquarian Society; in the same year, of the New York Historical Society; and, in 1815, of the Linnæan Society, of which he was also Vice-President.

To almost every public institution of science, literature, and charity, he was not only a liberal contributor, but readily took upon himself the irksome and thankless office of solicitor in their aid, or for their enlargement. His liberality was not, however, restricted to the gratification of his taste or of his peculiar intellectual propensity; he had a heart alive, and a hand prepared and willing, to assist any useful or charitable object. To his more immediate relatives and friends, who, at any time required his aid, "his donations," to use the language of one of them, "were *princely*, considering the proportion of his means to the claims on them." Whether public or private, whether in the patronage of literature, or under the impulse of charity, his acts were without display or any desire of notoriety. His delicacy on this point was extreme and characteristic. Of its nature and direction, a remarkable evidence exists, which, as indicative of his known practice on other occasions, ought not to be omitted here.

In the year 1819, that distinguished scholar, the late John Pickering, published in the North American Review a translation of Professor Wyttenbach's "Observations on the Importance of Greek Literature and the best Mode of Studying the Classics." This work was subsequently republished, with an appropriate preface by the translator; and, as the eulogist of Mr. Pickering asserts, "was printed at the expense of that kind-hearted patron of letters, and

zealous agent in founding the Boston Athenæum, the late William S. Shaw, who deserves a grateful remembrance in this metropolis." *

The latter years of Mr. Shaw's life were oppressed by sickness, the result of his constitutional infirmities, which sometimes wholly separated him from the institution which had been the favorite, and almost the exclusive, object of his life. He died in Boston, on the 26th of April, 1826, in the forty-eighth year of his age; after a life of labor and usefulness, devoted to the advancement of letters; entitling him to the character of a faithful friend, a most worthy citizen, and a zealous and disinterested public benefactor.

* See the "Eulogy on John Pickering, LL. D., President of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, delivered before the Academy, October 28, 1846, by Daniel Appleton White."

PETER OXENBRIDGE THACHER

AND

SAMUEL COOPER THACHER.

THESE early and active members of the Anthology Society were brothers. Their ancestor, Thomas Thacher, emigrated to New England in 1635, and became pastor of the Old South Church, in Boston, in 1670. Many of his descendants were distinguished in colonial times, both in church and state. One of them, Oxenbridge Thacher, a lawyer, highly respected for his learning and moral worth, held the first rank in his profession in Boston. In political life he was active, and his influence extensive. He was, in 1761, joint counsel with James Otis, for the Boston and Salem merchants, in opposition to "writs of assistance." Referring to the effects of their arguments on this occasion, the late President John Adams asserted, that "then and there was the first scene of the first act of opposition to the arbitrary claims of Great Britain. Then and there the child Independence was born. In fifteen years, i. e. 1776, he grew up to manhood, and declared himself free." *

* See Tudor's "Life of Otis," pp. 57 - 61. Also "Niles's Register," Vol. XIV. p. 17.

Peter Thacher, his son, the father of the subjects of this notice, was pastor of the Church in Brattle Street, in Boston, and was distinguished among his contemporaries for his oratorical powers, and for the fluency and pathos of his devotional exercises. The urbanity of his manners, united with his professional zeal, rendered him one of the most popular clergymen of the period. Peter Oxenbridge Thacher, his eldest son, was born in Malden, Massachusetts, in December, 1776, was graduated at Harvard University in 1796, and was admitted to the Suffolk bar in 1803. Having successfully practised his profession until 1823, he accepted the appointment of Judge of the Municipal Court of the City of Boston, which he held until his death, in 1843. He sustained a respectable rank in his profession, and was highly esteemed both as a man and as a lawyer. His integrity and exactness in business were the foundation of very general confidence, both with his clients and the public. During the twenty years he presided over the judicial interests of the City of Boston, he was distinguished for uncompromising firmness and independence. In the difficult and often critical exercise of the powers intrusted to him, he upheld the dignity of his office, and maintained the cause of justice with a fearless and discriminating spirit. A volume of Reports of cases adjudged by him has been published since his death from a manuscript copy, carefully prepared by him for publication in his lifetime, and constitutes an imperishable monument of his discretion, sound judgment, and laborious fidelity.

Samuel Cooper Thacher, his younger brother, was born in Boston, on the 14th of December, 1785, and, having been prepared for College at the Latin Grammar School of his native town, was admitted to Harvard University in 1800, where he was graduated in 1804, with its highest honors. He immediately commenced his theological stud-

ies under the direction of William Ellery Channing, and an intimate and confidential friendship was formed between them, which subsisted through his life.

He was, as has been already stated, one of the first members of the Anthology Society, and at their first meeting was appointed "Editor" of the Monthly Anthology; a designation, which, at his special motion, was subsequently changed for that of "Superintending Committee," Mr. Thacher having found that the character of "Editor" had exposed him to a responsibility he was unwilling to assume. With this modification, he held and executed that office until June, 1806, when he sailed for England, at the request of the friends of the Rev. Joseph Stevens Buckminster, whose critical state of health rendered highly important a companion, like Thacher, ready to administer relief, or procure assistance, in every exigency.

The travellers met in London, and soon commenced their tour on the Continent. They remained abroad until August, 1807, and, embarking together from Liverpool, arrived at Boston in September.

In 1808, Mr. Thacher accepted the office of Librarian of Harvard University. While in this office he engaged in the theological discussions of the period, availing himself of the Monthly Anthology as the medium of communicating his views to the public. It was a warfare uncongenial to his temperament, which was remarkably mild and averse to the spirit of controversy, but he felt it to be his duty to enter upon the defence of what he regarded as the great principles of truth and freedom.

He entered, about this time, upon the duties of the pulpit, and the impression he made on the public by the justness of his sentiments, the warmth of his devotion, and the gracefulness of his delivery, was deep and general.

On the removal of the Rev. Dr. Kirkland, from the New

South Church, in Boston, to the Presidency of Harvard University, Mr. Thacher accepted a call from that society, and was ordained in May, 1811. "He realized," says his biographer, "the highest conception of a good pastor; giving himself to reading, to exhortation, to instruction; gentle unto all men; and an example to the believers, in conversation, in spirit, in faith, in purity."

His physical constitution did not, however, prove equal to the duties he had undertaken. In the course of a year declining health caused a temporary suspension of his official labors, during which he was called to lament, with other friends of science and religion, the loss both had sustained by the early death of Joseph Stevens Buckminster. The life and character of this beloved companion and friend he delineated with great felicity of language, justice, and truth, in a Memoir prefixed to a volume of Mr. Buckminster's Discourses, published in 1814.

Mr. Thacher was not destined long to survive him. In the autumn of 1815, the tendency of his constitution to pulmonary disease became critical and alarming. By the advice of his physicians, he sought relief in a voyage to England, afterwards to the Cape of Good Hope, and finally in a residence at Moulins, the chief town of the department of the Allier, in France, where his life terminated on the 2d of January, 1818.

The combination of high powers of mind with the most amiable qualities of the heart, which rendered Samuel Cooper Thacher uncommonly dear, and his loss generally regretted by his contemporaries, has been well portrayed by the late Dr. Greenwood. One of the most eloquent and touching memoirs in our language, from his pen, is prefixed to a volume of Mr. Thacher's Sermons, published in 1824; which will well reward those who can take an interest in perusing the life of a gifted man and exemplary Christian, illustrated by one of kindred worth, feeling, and genius.

JOSEPH STEVENS BUCKMINSTER.

JOSEPH STEVENS BUCKMINSTER was the son of the Rev. Dr. Joseph Buckminster of Portsmouth, New Hampshire ; a clergyman distinguished for intellectual power, and for those qualities of mind and heart which render a pastor useful and beloved. He married Sarah Stevens, the daughter of the Rev. Dr. Stevens, of Kittery, whom her contemporaries represent as possessing, in a high degree, the virtues which dignify and adorn the female character. Their son was born on the 26th of May, 1784, and discovered, even in childhood, uncommon mental precociousness, which his father directed and restrained with singular judgment and fidelity. At four years old his love of books and desire of knowledge were extraordinary, and gave promise of dispositions and powers which his manhood did not disappoint. At that age he began the study of the Latin Grammar, and, at his earnest solicitation, he was permitted by his father to be introduced to the first elements of Greek. The earliest developements of his mind evidenced great strength of the pious affections. Between the age of five and seven years he was accustomed, in the absence of his father, to assemble the domestics of the family, and, with great earnestness and solemnity, to read to them a sermon, repeat the Lord's Prayer, and sing a hymn; to which they

always listened with attention. He received, until ten years of age, the rudiments of his education at the Grammar School in Portsmouth, and was then transferred to Phillips Exeter Academy, where, at the age of twelve, he was prepared for College. He was, however, restrained from offering himself for admission until the succeeding year, when he entered the Sophomore Class in Harvard University, in 1797. His whole collegiate course was eminently distinguished for moral principle and uncommon genius, united to unremitting industry. He was graduated in 1800, with high honors; the oration, which he delivered on the occasion, being marked alike for solidity of thought, brilliancy of imagination, and grace of delivery.

Having spent about two years as assistant instructor in Phillips Exeter Academy, he became for one year instructor in a private family. While thus employed, he also went over with great care and judgment an extensive field of theological study. On appearing as a candidate for the ministry, he was immediately called, at the age of twenty, to the charge of the Church in Brattle Street, Boston; and was ordained on the 30th of January, 1805. His connection with that church was of the most satisfactory and interesting character. The eloquence and genius displayed in his public discourses were unrivalled; and, although he was exemplary in fulfilling his pastoral duties, yet he found leisure to attend to the interests of literature, as well as the duties of charity and of the pulpit. The style of his preaching was neither exclusive nor dogmatical. He made it the chief object of his discourses to render religion of practical efficiency in guiding the conduct of life. Towards philology the bent of his mind was forcible, with a particular reference to enlarging and facilitating the means of understanding the sacred Scriptures; and in consequence the President and Fellows of Harvard College elected him, in

1811, to the office of Lecturer on Biblical Criticism in that institution. A plan of a Course of Lectures on this subject was sketched by him, but its completion was prevented by his premature death.

Of the Anthology Society he was one of the earliest and most zealous members, and to the periodical work they conducted a frequent contributor. In all the measures leading to the establishment of the Boston Athenæum, and for the promotion of its interests after its incorporation, his influence was earnest, assiduous, and efficient. He was the dear and intimate friend of William Smith Shaw, and zealously seconded his views and exertions in the establishment of that institution.

In the years 1806 and 1807 Mr. Buckminster was absent from the United States, visiting England and the Continent for the benefit of his health. The correspondence between him and his friend Shaw graphically exhibits the zeal with which they both pursued the advancement of the interests of the Athenæum, and their strong affection for each other and for their associates. In June, 1806, Mr. Buckminster writes from London to this friend: "England, with all her learning, luxury, and arts, has not yet furnished me with any pleasure equivalent to that which I relinquished, when I broke away from the circle of the beloved acquaintance in Boston, who were bound to me by all the enthusiasm of literature, by the habits of daily intimacy, by similarity of pursuits and of age, and by the still finer ties of that holy affection in which Cicero has written that golden treatise on Friendship, and, I believe I may also add, by the bonds of Christian charity and love." In a passage of this letter, which has already been inserted in this work,* he expresses his earnest solicitude for the literary progress of his country.

* See History of Athenæum, page 10.

The taste and judgment with which he executed his orders to purchase books for the Boston Athenæum, as also his spirit of economy, and regard for utility, in his purchases, are strongly delineated in his letters. "I have," he writes in one of them, dated the 3d of April, 1807, "exceeded by more than £ 30 sterling my commission and your bill of exchange. If you disapprove the purchases, you are welcome to return them to me when I reach America." The principles, on which he sought to promote the interests of the Athenæum, and which guided his influence, form a frequent topic of his letters. "I send out," he writes, "about a dozen works, because they are new; it should be an important object in your establishment to take almost all the new publications."

"I am in great doubt about applying to any societies here for an exchange of publications, for, alas! what have we to exchange with them? The Bath, Manchester, Dublin, etc., Society papers are extremely valuable, but I think our funds are not sufficient to procure them. We must, at least for some time, think of popularity; and I know of no method so likely to procure it as to keep our rooms furnished with abundance of magazines, pamphlets, and *new books*. This, I am satisfied, should be our primary object; and our second, to lay slowly and secretly the foundation of a permanent library of works difficult to be procured in America."

In June, 1807, the purpose of erecting an edifice out of the first subscriptions for the Athenæum was one of the avowed and among the most cherished objects of the subscribers. In that month, Buckminster wrote to Shaw from Europe: "Do not build a new edifice unless you can raise money enough to erect an elegant, classical building, entirely of stone, or with a stone façade." The judgment with which he criticizes many of the principal works, and

which appears in the reasons he adduces for the purchase of some and the rejection of others, is highly praiseworthy, and shows both his acquaintance with those works, and the heart-felt interest by which he was actuated in respect to the Athenæum.

Mr. Buckminster's absence in Europe, continued for a year, checked, in a slight degree, that constitutional tendency to epilepsy which had excited the anxiety of his friends. But, on recommencing his official duties, his malady returned, and on the 9th of June, 1812, terminated fatally, when he had just completed his twenty-eighth year. The fond hopes of his friends, and the ardent anticipations of his long-continued usefulness, entertained by his congregation and the public, were suddenly blasted. To use the beautiful and appropriate language of one of his biographers, "He fell in the bright morning of his virtues, his fame, and his usefulness, '*purpureus veluti cum flos succisus aratro.*'" *

* This notice was prepared for the press, in connection with the History of the Athenæum, two years since; the printing of which, after having been at that time commenced, was unavoidably postponed by circumstances for which the writer is not responsible. During this interval, "Memoirs of the Rev. Joseph Buckminster and Rev. Joseph Stevens Buckminster, by Eliza Buckminster Lee," have been issued from the press. This touching tribute of duty and affection, which elucidates the virtues and talents of those eminent men with appropriate feeling and beauty of illustration, deserves to be read entire; and, as it has not, therefore, been deemed just to extract detached parts of that interesting work, this sketch has been published as originally prepared.

WILLIAM TUDOR.

THE family of Tudor is of Welsh origin. John Tudor, the first of the name in Boston, came to America, with his mother, while yet a child. Being educated with great strictness, he acquired habits of economy, and accumulated what, in those days, was regarded as affluence ; and he was highly esteemed by his contemporaries. His son, William Tudor, was graduated at Harvard College, in 1769, and, after pursuing his professional studies in the office of John Adams, commenced the practice of the law in Boston during that period of political agitation which preceded the American Revolution. On the occurrence of hostilities, he entered the American army, and was appointed Judge Advocate, an office which he held two years ; when, quitting the service, he resumed the practice of the law, and married Delia Jarvis, a lady of taste and refinement congenial with his own.

William Tudor, their son, the subject of this biographical notice, was born in Boston on the 28th of January, 1779, was educated at Phillips Academy in Andover, and graduated at Harvard College in 1796. Being destined for mercantile life, he entered the counting-room of John Codman, one of the most eminent and successful merchants of

Boston, where he continued, winning the affection and confidence of his employer, until he was deemed qualified for duties involving higher responsibility.

The trustworthiness of his character was early established, and, notwithstanding successive disappointments in his mercantile enterprises, he never forfeited it. The firmness of his principle may be readily traced to the excellence of his early domestic education ; which had also an unquestionable influence in instilling into his mind a love for literary pursuits, not easily associated with those of gain, and with projects for mercantile advancement.

His parents were intellectual in their tastes, and social and refined in their habits. That distant and reserved demeanour, partaking occasionally of severity, by which the intercourse of parents and children were, in the early times of New England, characterized, was inconsistent with their feelings and principles. In the spirit of companionship, rather than of authority, they treated their children with a tenderness bordering on indulgence ; and cultivated in them a sense of duty and of social and moral obligation by the beauty and force of their own example, more than by formal precept. In religious opinion they were Episcopalians, of that division which has since obtained the name of High Church, and their views on this subject were cheerful, charitable, and free from all bigotry and intolerance. The qualities of the mind and heart of their son were such as these happy domestic influences were adapted to produce. They united purity of motive with elevation of sentiment, and rendered him, in after life, an object of affectionate regard in every circle in which he was cast. At school, at College, in the counting-room, and in the legislative hall, he was alike the object of esteem ; to which also his gentlemanly demeanour and amiable temperament, ever welling out in language and acts of kindness, largely contributed.

No sooner had young Tudor attained the age of manhood, and before he had completed the years of his mercantile education, he was selected by Mr. Codman, and sent to Paris as his confidential agent, on a matter of great interest and delicacy; and, although in this mission his exertions were not successful, it was not attributable to any want of assiduity or attention, and he continued to retain the confidence of his employer.

He resided, at this period, nearly a year in Europe, chiefly in Paris; and, his associations being, as far as possible, with men of literary taste and education, his disposition toward letters was strengthened, and the turn of his thoughts gradually became directed to subjects of general social interest and progress, which, if not adapted to impede, were certainly not suited to promote, mercantile endeavours and hopes of success.

These, however, he did not abandon; but on his return to America, having induced his father to advance a small capital, he sailed for Leghorn, and thus brought himself again into the vicinity of scenes adapted to foster that love of science and of letters, in which his soul began to be absorbed.

Although the particular project, in which this voyage originated, also failed, yet he gratified and improved his taste by a year's residence in Italy, and subsequently found means, while engaged in other mercantile enterprises, to enlarge his sphere of information by visiting France, Germany, Holland, and England; and his letters to his American correspondents, and his journals, gave permanency to the impressions he received while abroad. He returned to America with his love of letters confirmed by his European tour. The idea of forming a literary club, which was then contemplated by some of his friends and associates, was in harmony with his feelings and views; and he entered

with spirit into the project, and became one of the earliest and most efficient members of the Anthology Society, by donations to their library, by communicating his European letters, and by other contributions to their periodical publication.

Mr. Tudor was, however, soon separated from his literary associates by accepting a commercial agency for the West Indies. In the year 1805, his brother, Frederic Tudor, formed the plan of establishing a new branch of commerce by the transportation of ice to tropical climates. The project was unprecedented, and, when suggested, was encountered with doubt and even ridicule by the public and his own family. But, undaunted by opposition, Frederic Tudor persevered. He planned and furnished the outfit for a voyage to the West Indies, and took upon himself the expense and risk of an attempt to secure a monopoly of the trade, necessary to justify the expenditure requisite for erecting ice-houses in several places of deposit. William Tudor, as his agent, having James Savage for his associate, embarked, in prosecution of this design, for the West Indies, in November, 1805, and employed seven months in visiting several of the islands. In reference to his conduct in this negotiation, Mr. Savage states, "that his large acquaintance with mankind and dignified address served him essentially." Although only partial success attended these first efforts, his zeal and fidelity in his endeavours were highly satisfactory to his employer. Frederic Tudor, though disappointed as to that general coöperation, which he had anticipated from the different governors of the West Indies, adhered to his purpose, in the steady prosecution of which he finally triumphed over all obstacles. He established the traffic, acquired in it great affluence for himself, and created for

his country an important branch of commerce, of which he was unquestionably the author and founder.

On his return from the West Indies, William Tudor re-joined the Anthology Club, was chosen a member of the Massachusetts Legislature for the town of Boston, and, at the request of its authorities, delivered an oration, on the 4th of July, 1809. He also prepared an address to be spoken before the Phi Beta Kappa Society at Harvard College in 1810, which was published, although its delivery was prevented by his departure for Europe. In the summer of this year, he was employed by Stephen Higginson, junior, an eminent Boston merchant, as his agent, in an attempt to force large quantities of English manufactures into the Continent of Europe, in despite of the hostile decrees of Bonaparte against the rights of neutrals. The soldier and sovereign was, however, too vigilant and powerful. The defeat of the enterprise, although it occasioned great loss to the principal, implicated Mr. Tudor in no blame. With characteristic spirit, he immediately engaged with Samuel Williams, then American consul in London, and with some other Americans, in an attempt to establish at Birmingham the manufacture of cut nails. This project was also unsuccessful, and Mr. Tudor returned to the United States to devote his thoughts to pursuits more kindred to his genius.

General literature and the political relations of his country now became the exclusive objects of his attention. To open a field for their successful pursuit he formed, in 1814, the design of establishing the "North American Review," which still continues a noble monument of his industry and intellectual power. The prospectus, issued in December, 1814, is said to have been from his pen, and combines with comprehensiveness and terseness all the circumstances which rendered such a publication desirable and useful.

In May, 1815, this publication made its first appearance

from the press. Mr. Tudor took upon himself, avowedly, the character of editor, and sustained the work with little external aid. Of the first four volumes, three fourths are known to be wholly from his pen.

Notwithstanding the occupation incident to this undertaking, he found leisure, in the course of the year 1818, to write, and in 1819 issued from the press a volume of "Letters on the Eastern States"; a work characteristic of the author's peculiarities of mind and modes of thought.

In 1823, Mr. Tudor published the "Life of James Otis," in which he embraces, not only the leading events of this patriot's career, but also notices, with graphic delineations, the characters of some of the most distinguished political actors of that period. On this account the work has an extensive interest, and may well be regarded as a history of the times.

In the same year, Mr. Tudor conceived the design of erecting on Bunker Hill a monument, in commemoration of the great conflict of the 17th of June, 1775, which, from the spirit and temper it inspired, contributed, more perhaps than any other event, to the Independence of the United States. The following circumstances first suggested the idea to his mind. It came to his knowledge accidentally, that a part of that hill was to be sold; and he ascertained, on inquiry, that the residue embraced the spot on which the American redoubt had been raised, and where Warren fell, and that this might probably then be purchased. Being destitute himself of pecuniary means sufficient to justify his engaging personally in the project, he immediately applied to individuals, whose resources were adequate to the object, and whose spirit he knew was capable of appreciating the opportunity and its importance.

Dr. John Collins Warren, Thomas Handasyd Perkins, Daniel Webster, William Sullivan, Theodore Lyman, junior,

and William Swett, to whom he first communicated his purpose, expressed cordially their approbation of it. The letter Mr. Tudor addressed to Dr. Warren on the subject has been kindly communicated by him for this publication.

The letter is without other date than "Sunday, 1823," and was written in the early part of that year. After dwelling upon the difficulties of effecting the purchase (the site of the battle being owned by several proprietors), and the best mode of surmounting them, Mr. Tudor proceeds:—

"I feel reluctant to engage you, by any persuasion of mine, to run the risk of making the purchase of the lot, now for sale; and I think it would be inexpedient for me to go over the *preliminary* grounds with the other gentlemen. It was a sudden impulse on hearing of this sale, arising, however, from many previous reveries and wishes on the subject, which led me to speak upon it; for I had made a vow, that, until I was able myself to subscribe to a public object, I would never solicit any others,—and that, in my powerless situation, there was something ridiculous in attempting to *patronize* the public,—this by way of parenthesis.

"The gentlemen I spoke with, Perkins, Webster, Lyman, and Swett, seemed to enter into it readily enough, which leads me to think that my ideas were not wholly extravagant. No one has so large an interest in the matter as yourself, and your volunteering in the outset would, I think, have a good effect on a few such as I have mentioned, though it would not be expedient to mention it to the world at large; and therefore, if the purchase should be made, it would be best to keep names out of sight at first.

"This seems to me to be a subject on which public feeling might be very considerably excited, sufficiently so as to

secure the purpose in view ; and I think there are many motives of expediency for attempting this excitement. I can only say that I will cheerfully labor to carry the design into effect ; and, as my idea would be to make the monument grow from universal contribution, I could in this case contribute the same mite, by way of subscription, which is all I think that would be wanted in the business, if the feeling of the State could be roused. I should like to see the noblest column in the world on that hill, supporting a colossal statue of your immortal relative ; but as to the probability you must judge for yourself, and in any event not accuse me of leading you into a serape. I am yours truly,
W. TUDOR."

Immediately upon the receipt of this letter, Dr. Warren authorized the purchase of the site. A meeting of the gentlemen above named, with William Prescott and others, was called, and the first organized arrangements were made, which terminated in the construction of the monument now standing on Bunker Hill. In the subsequent measures for effecting that object, Mr. Tudor was precluded from participating, having received the appointment of Consul for the United States at Lima and the ports of Peru, and embarked for his destination in November of the same year (1823) ; after which departure he never returned to the United States. His zeal and promptitude in the undertaking, and the patriotic spirit he manifested, entitle him to be commemorated as one of the earliest efficient authors of its success.

Mr. Tudor, during his residence on the Pacific coast of South America, was a witness of the convulsions, which preceded the separation of those colonies from the dominion of Spain ; and his appointment as American Consul was recognized by the first republican government formed after

the expulsion of the Spanish dynasty. The circumstances of the period, during the violent agitations attendant on the successive changes of government, and the alternate predominance and subjection of rival factions, rendered his position singularly critical. His judgment and discretion were equal to the emergency. His manners were conciliatory, and his spirit wisely attempered to the times. Maintaining the rights of his own country, he was just to those of the respective parties, as they rose to power and fell from it. With the leaders of the patriotic party he acquired popularity, and ultimately inspired them with such confidence, that they constituted him their organ of communication with the government of the United States, soliciting its influence in mediating a reconciliation between the Republics of Colombia and Peru, then engaged in actual hostilities.

At the same period, on the Atlantic coast of South America, the war between the Brazilian government and the Republic of Buenos Ayres had led to insults and depredation upon American commerce, which demanded from the government of the United States an efficient interposition of its authority. The qualifications of Mr. Tudor for this service were conspicuous and acknowledged; and, in the summer of 1827, he received the appointment of *Chargé d'Affaires* of the United States at Rio Janeiro. His health did not, however, allow him to repair to his new station until the summer of 1828. In this place he soon acquired the same consideration and influence, by which his mission to Peru had been distinguished. Contrary to all expectation he negotiated with the government of the country, at Rio Janeiro, an arrangement of indemnity for spoliations on American commerce, on principles so approved and satisfactory, that it received, by a unanimous vote, the concurrence of the Senate of the United States.

While resident at Rio Janeiro, Mr. Tudor wrote and

transmitted to Boston, for publication, a work of imagination, entitled "Gebel Teir"; the name of a mountain on the east bank of the Nile, on which, according to an Arabian legend, the birds from all the countries of the world annually assemble for the purpose of council and debate. On this legend Mr. Tudor constructed an allegory, which he made the medium of communicating, by way of report to this imaginary assembly of birds, his views and opinions concerning the state and policy of the United States and of the leading European nations. In this form, he obtained the power of giving a freedom and pointedness to his animadversions, which would have been in any other mode unattainable.

This work was Mr. Tudor's last publication, and his treaty with the Court of Rio Janeiro was the last of the public services he was permitted to render his country. On the 9th of March, 1830, he died of a fever incident to the climate, and, on the 12th of the same month, his obsequies were attended by the chief officers of the Court of Rio Janeiro, by all the public functionaries there resident, by the English and French commanders of the ships of those nations, then in the harbour, and by all the resident Americans. The qualities of the gentleman and the man of business, of the scholar and the man of the world, were so manifestly and so happily blended in William Tudor, that both in public conduct and private intercourse his character created universal respect and confidence.

Mr. Tudor has left many manuscripts of public interest, containing curious and important information concerning the countries in which he resided, some of them nearly prepared for the press. His official correspondence, which is highly interesting and useful, is also preserved; and it is hoped that, at some not far distant day, what remains of his writings will be put into the possession of the public.

JOHN THORNTON KIRKLAND.

ALTHOUGH the space Dr. Kirkland filled among his contemporaries was large, and the influence he exerted was important, little can be added to what has already been written and published concerning him. The prominent features of his life have been traced, and his virtues commemorated, in discourses devoted to the illustration of his character.* Circumstances do not, therefore, permit or require that this notice should be extended beyond that period of his life, in which he became instrumental, as a member of the Anthology Society, in laying the foundation of the Boston Athenæum. And it will be chiefly drawn from the writer's personal knowledge and recollections. Kirkland was his companion in boyhood, at Phillips Academy in Andover, and at times passed parts of vacations, by his invitation, at the residence of his mother in Boston. At College, though they were in different classes, their intimacy was never wholly suspended ; and in 1794, on Kirkland's settlement in Boston, the writer immediately selected him as his pastor ; a relation, which was sustained for fourteen or fifteen years, until Kirkland was transferred to the Presidency at Cambridge. Through the whole

* See the Discourses of the Rev. Drs. Palfrey, Parkman, and Young.

period of his subsequent life their friendship was never intermitted, nor their intimacy, so far as their different positions in society allowed.

John Thornton Kirkland, the son of Samuel Kirkland, one of the earliest and the most assiduous and successful of the English missionaries to the Indians inhabiting the United States, was born on the 17th of August, 1770, at a place now called Little Falls, in the State of New York. The residence of his father's family was soon removed to Stockbridge, in Massachusetts, where the qualities of his mind and heart were nourished and developed under the care of an intellectual and exemplary mother, until, in the month of March, 1784, in his fourteenth year, he was admitted a member of Phillips Academy, in Andover. At his first appearance in the Academy, Kirkland was accompanied by his father, a circumstance which made a strong impression on the imagination of the writer of this notice, and of his schoolfellows. The dangers and enterprise, incident at that day to the life of an Indian missionary, associated with the character of the elder Kirkland the idea of fearlessness and somewhat of a chivalrous spirit, which his aspect and general bearing was, in a degree, adapted to impress. The circumstance that young Kirkland was born among the Indians, and, as the boys apprehended, also educated among them, rendered him a more than common object of general attention and regard. This feeling, instead of being diminished, was strengthened by a knowledge of the fact, that he was about to owe his education to the liberality of Samuel Phillips, junior; a man who, in active usefulness, in exemplary influence on the literary, moral, and religious state of society, in general respect, and in public honors, was in that day, probably, second to no individual in Massachusetts. The interest thus created was supported and enlarged by the general tenor of Kirk-

land's conduct. In the school he was distinguished neither for assiduity nor neglect. The principle of emulation was not offensively developed in him. And on this account, though, in general, he satisfied his instructors, he excited neither the envy nor the jealousy of his schoolfellows. With the former he soon began to be regarded as a favorite; for his recitations were, for the most part, thorough, and in turning Latin or Greek into English he was exact, and sometimes, in diction, elegant. With the latter his success with his instructors rather increased than diminished his popularity; for they could not fail to perceive that it was the consequence, rather than the object, of his studies, — the result of a happy facility of talent, and not of any extraordinary ambitious exertions. Sagacity and tact were the characteristics of the boy, as they were afterwards of the man.

He had been bred roughly and hardily in the wilderness or in its vicinity; his frame was robust, his temperament kind, and his manners conciliatory. He entered readily into the feelings and interests of his schoolfellows, and was not restrained from uniting in their views or projects by the known dependence of his position, or any peculiar fear of giving offence to those by whose favor or good opinion his future prospects in life might be affected. Eliphalet Pearson, afterwards Professor of Hebrew and other Oriental Languages in Harvard College, was then Preceptor, or head master, of the Academy. He was critical, exact, and severe in his animadversions on the conduct of the scholars and in supporting the discipline of the seminary. To a thorough acquaintance with the classics, he added an unbounded estimate of their importance, which he never failed to inculcate and enforce, according to the ancient severe discipline approved at that day in all schools and academies. Kirkland, though he did not satisfy him by

the continuity of his application, yet, by the fulness and readiness of his mind, escaped from any severity of censure, and gradually became a favorite and the subject of panegyric ; a result not displeasing to his schoolfellows, as it was obtained without any sacrifices to authority. He left the Academy in April, 1786, with the reputation of high attainments as a scholar, with the esteem of his instructors, and the affection of his comrades.

Kirkland and the writer of this memoir entered Harvard College within three months of each other, the former becoming a member of the Sophomore, and the latter of the Freshman class. Notwithstanding this circumstance their acquaintance was never discontinued, and his course and conduct were subjects of the writer's knowledge and observation. Kirkland was propelled by the same internal force and swayed by the same natural impulses in the College, as in the Academy. He was faithful to his studies, and took a high rank as a scholar ; but he affected neither the air nor the precision of a hard student. He loved society, and was not indisposed to the amusements and enjoyments of social intercourse. He became popular and was courted by the most intellectual and ambitious members of his class, and consequently, for a short period, incurred loss of time, and expense somewhat beyond that which his pecuniary resources justified. His regret on this account, as committed by himself to paper, and published by his biographers in language of his own, is expressed with a depth of sorrow which the nature of his aberrations scarcely justified ; for it was never suggested that they were in any respect vicious or immoral, nor was he ever subjected to any severe college censure or discipline. He left the institution with an untarnished reputation, and with an enviable college distinction, implying that he stood the second in his class.

After passing a year as assistant teacher at the Academy in Andover, he commenced the study of theology, received the appointment of Tutor at Harvard College, and continued prosecuting his studies while engaged in that employment, until his settlement at the New South Church in Boston, in February, 1794. He had, in this connection, an arduous position, which it would have been difficult for a man of ordinary attainments to acquire or maintain. His predecessor in that desk was Oliver Everett, a man greatly beloved by his congregation. Everett's discourses had been distinguished for an intellectual power, which made it more difficult for his successor to satisfy the taste which had been thus cultivated and gratified. Kirkland soon gave evidence, however, that he was equal to the task he had undertaken. With a mind rich in thought, with a refined taste, a judgment critical and discriminating, skilful in the selection of his topics, and felicitous in their illustration, he became soon distinguished among the preachers of the metropolis, and gradually enlarged his congregation by collecting around him men, of whom many were among the highest intellects and most influential characters of the period. Of these it will be sufficient here to mention Theophilus Parsons, George Cabot, Thomas Handasyd Perkins, and William Prescott. The approbation and applause of a class of men, of whom these names may be considered as exponents, openly expressed by their joining his congregation, gave a sanction to his success, and evidenced that his popularity was not transient or shadowy, but permanent and substantial.

There was in Kirkland's manners a natural suavity and outflowing of kindness, which opened a way to the heart, and rendered his private society interesting, and his public discourses effective, independently of their intrinsic beauty and power. His characteristic benevolence and ready

sympathy for the wants and sufferings of others had rendered him dear as a pastor, and were regarded, by those who knew him, as eminently qualifying him for a station of more extensive usefulness as a superintendent and guide of the young. When therefore, in the autumn of 1804, Joseph Willard, the President of Harvard College, died, a strong demonstration was made among the friends of the institution in favor of introducing him into the vacant chair. To this his known liberal religious views and catholic spirit furnished an exciting motive. In the Corporation, his election was pressed with great warmth by some of its members, and was opposed by others with a like spirit. The struggle resulted first in the choice of Fisher Ames, who declined, and finally in the election of Samuel Webber, who held the office four years. At his death, in 1810, the exertions of Kirkland's friends in the Corporation were revived, and they terminated in his election to the Presidency. Public and private munificence succeeded to this event; and the prospects of Harvard University were greatly improved and extended by measures and influences, of which the history is already in the possession of the public.

It was about the time when the first struggle in favor of Kirkland for the Presidency was pending, that the Anthology Society was formed. All its original members, except Gardiner and Emerson, were his juniors in age, and the latter was of the same college standing. Some of them were his intimate friends, others his literary and professional companions; and, considering the small number of those who, in this vicinity, at that period took a direct interest in the advancement of literature, it is remarkable that Kirkland was not among the first associates. But a knowledge of the character and traits of his mind and temperament probably prevented his being at first

invited to join a society, formed to engage in a work, to which they intended to devote much intellectual labor, implying an expense of time and the incurring of responsibility. To the great fulness of his mind and great effectiveness in its action, Kirkland united an inherent disinclination to intellectual exertion. He required the stimulus of events, or of duty, to induce him to engage in the task of composition, which was always toilsome to him, and the more so from a delicacy of taste, amounting at times to fastidiousness, resulting in painful revision and laborious correction under the influence of a judgment difficult to be satisfied. A knowledge of his temperament in this respect made him reluctant to engage in any work of supererogation; and his friends were unwilling to place reliance upon any assistance from him in their undertaking, unless under terms distinctly expressed and previously made the subject of agreement. This state of opinion is shadowed forth, in the records of the Anthology Society, by which it appears, that desirable as his aid was thought to be by the associates, he was not admitted without deliberation, nor was it finally effected but by a vote, passed, probably, jocosely, declaring that it was *on condition* that he should give an explicit promise, that he would, in his turn, write certain articles which were special objects of interest in the Society, and review such books as should be assigned to him. Their records accordingly show, that important portions of their labor were immediately devolved upon him. The Memoir, which was designed to promote the first subscription, after the act of incorporation had been obtained, was claimed from him, and was executed by his pen. His character and popularity had unquestionably a happy influence in obtaining the charter of the Athenæum, and in effecting the subscription which laid the foundation of its future prosperity; and, notwithstanding that he was not an original mem-

ber of the Anthology Club, nor an important contributor to the funds or the library of the Athenæum, he is entitled, by his valuable services, to be regarded as one of its founders.*

* Extracts from the Records of the Anthology Society:—

“September 13, 1306. Rev. Dr. Kirkland was put on the nomination list for consideration as a future member of the Society.”

“October 16, 1306. Mr. Shaw moved that the Rev. Dr. Kirkland be admitted a member of the Society. The Secretary [Mr. Walter] seconded the motion, on condition that Dr. Kirkland first be requested to give an explicit promise that he would write ‘The Remarker’ and ‘Silva,’ in his turn, and review such books as might be assigned to him. He was accordingly admitted on this condition, and the Secretary and Mr. Shaw were appointed a committee to wait on Dr. Kirkland and inform him of such election.”

October 23, Dr. Kirkland was added to the reading-room committee; and, October 30, he was chosen one of the five trustees, to whom the library and the whole property of the Society were to be transferred.

MEMOIR OF JOHN BROMFIELD.

THE judicious and timely donation to the Boston Athenæum by John Bromfield during his lifetime, and his endowment of the public with the chief part of his large property, by devoting it in his last will to the most important and interesting objects of charity and usefulness, render a memoir of his life peculiarly just and proper.

He was the last representative in America of the male line of a family distinguished, for more than a century among the citizens of Boston, for integrity and benevolence. It had its origin in Wales, where, in the reign of Edward the Second, it had extensive possessions. William Bromfield removed to England, was appointed by Queen Elizabeth Lieutenant of the Ordnance in the Tower, and purchased a great estate in the vicinity of London. His descendant, Edward Bromfield, was born at Haywood House, the seat of the family, in the New Forest, Hampshire, in 1648, and emigrated to Boston, Massachusetts, in 1675, where he became a merchant, eminent for activity, judgment, and integrity. His mansion-house stood in the street which now bears his name, on the site of the present Bromfield House, then "surrounded by fields and shady groves." He married Mary, the daughter of the Rev. Samuel Danforth, of

Roxbury, and granddaughter of the Rev. John Wilson, of Boston. Their son, Edward Bromfield, born in 1696, married Elizabeth Coney in 1722, became a merchant of character and influence, and died in 1756. The youngest of the sons of his numerous family was John Bromfield, the father of the subject of this Memoir. He married Ann Roberts, the youngest daughter of Robert Roberts, who emigrated to this country from Wales, and became a much respected inhabitant of Newburyport. The character of Mr. Roberts was marked by "uncommon decision and energy"; he was "stern, self-sustained, thinking for himself, with a never-wavering resolution to do what he deemed right, irrespective of the opinions and practice of others"; and the same spirit was so strikingly developed in his grandson, that it was said of him that the same Cambrian blood flowed in his veins as did in those of his maternal grandfather. Having been educated at one of the English universities, he bestowed on his daughter great advantages of education, of which she had the disposition and power to avail herself.

The current of her husband's affairs became troubled, and at last seriously embarrassed, by circumstances of which the war of the revolution was one of the causes. Their son, JOHN BROMFIELD, the subject of this Memoir, was born in Newburyport, April 11th, 1779. His early years were passed with his brothers and sisters, under the pressure of misfortunes involving the necessity of great pecuniary restraint, and with no refuge or support except in the elevated spirit of their mother, who was, in all respects, entitled to the epithet of "admirable." Beloved by all, by her children she was little less than adored. Such were the impressions made deeply on the mind of the writer of this Memoir, during many years of intimate friendship with this lady; whose virtues and character are accurately portrayed in the following touching tribute from her surviving daughter.

“In all the more trying exigencies of her life, her conduct was noble and magnanimous ; nor was it less so, while pursuing the even tenor of her daily life-long course, unnoticed and unknown. Retired from the world, and needing not its stimulus of praise or applause, she was never happier than when surrounded by her nursery flock, to whose early training she devoted her almost undivided attention ; and for this she was eminently qualified. Her own home school-education, under the supervision of her father, was the best that could be obtained. Her intelligent and highly cultivated mind, good judgment, modesty, sweetness of temper, together with a dignity of manners, commanding, yet strictly feminine, formed a charm that bound her children to her irresistibly, her life being to them *a living commentary* upon the truth and grandeur of what were to them her oracular teachings.”

Mr. Bromfield, after receiving his early education from his mother, became, in 1792, a pupil of Dummer Academy, in Byfield, where his habits were so studious and his scholarship was so satisfactory, that his friends were advised to send him to the University ; the means for which were kindly proffered by his father’s sisters. With that decision and firm spirit of independence, which subsequently marked his character, he refused with grateful acknowledgments this kind offer, saying that he was resolved to make his own way to fortune, as a merchant ; and accordingly at the age of fourteen he entered the counting-house of Messrs. Lar-kin & Hurd, of Charlestown, and afterwards, during the period of his apprenticeship, that of Messrs. Soley & Stearns. The failure of this house, just as he became of age, was the first cloud upon his prospects as a man of business ; but with characteristic kindness he assumed, as far as was in his power, the settlement of their concerns, and devoted himself to their service, without reward, or the hope of it.

Mr. Bromfield thus entered upon life without patronage, and without prospects, other than such as his own talents and enterprise might open for him. The times were difficult. Several months elapsed, and every attempt to obtain mercantile employment failed. His desire of activity, and his earnest anxiety to begin the work which might lead him to independence, became at last insupportable, when he said to his sister, "I have made up my mind, I will no longer remain idle. I have spoken to a master-carpenter; I have made arrangements with him to teach me his trade; and, if for three weeks I continue unable to find mercantile employment, I will change my profession and become a mechanic." With those who knew the firmness of his character, it was unquestionable that he would have kept his resolution. Happily an opening occurred within the prescribed period, and he was enabled to enter the path he had prepared himself to pursue.

The confidence, which his conduct in relation to the concerns of Messrs. Soley & Stearns had created, as well as his known talents and urbanity of manners, soon opened to him opportunities for employment; but in whose service, or for what objects, is not at this day to be ascertained. By letters from him, preserved in the family, it is known that on the 16th March, 1806, he was at Rotterdam, as factor, or agent, for some mercantile house, and that success had not attended the enterprise, of which he had the superintendence. "I have been pursued," he writes to his mother at that date, "by the most untoward and sinister events. Forty days on my passage to Nantes, — fifty-three days embargoed, — I could not arrive in Holland until the first of March. Fortune has pursued me, undeviatingly, with ill luck; I cannot charge her with inconstancy. Existence is not worth possessing unaccompanied by independence of mind."

It appears that in April, 1808, he was again in Europe, in like service, with a similar result. On the 18th of that month, he wrote to his mother from London ; “ My fears of a bad voyage are completely realized. I have been obliged to land my cargo, and make a ruinous voyage for the gentlemen who were good enough to give me employ. My own loss will be total, of all that I have earned during my past life. The decrees of France and England are ruinous to American commerce ; which is a whip-top, scourged by both parties. Though a neutral, it is attacked by all the belligerents.” In the spring of 1809, he was intrusted with large funds by Mr. Theodore Lyman, senior, upon an agreement to remain in Canton for a year, as his factor ; and for this purpose he was associated, as supercargo, with William Sturgis, who was appointed to the command of the ship *Atahualpa*, owned by Mr. Lyman, with joint control of the destined funds. At the request of the writer of this Memoir, Mr. Sturgis has favored him with the subjoined letter, conveying his impressions of the character of Mr. Bromfield.

“ HON. JOSIAH QUINCY, — My Dear Sir : When you asked for reminiscences of our late friend, Mr. Bromfield, I readily promised to give them, and was gratified at having an opportunity to express and record the high estimation in which I have long held him. But, when I sat down to perform this promise, I found that I had undertaken a task not easily executed, and became conscious of my inability to convey to those not acquainted with Mr. Bromfield the impressions of his character and qualities, that are indelibly stamped on my own mind. He was one who can be appreciated only by those who knew him intimately ; and of such the number is small, for he was by no means lavish of his confidence, and, though courteous to all, was intimate with few.

“My own acquaintance with him began under the following circumstances. In the spring of 1809 I was in command of the ship *Atahualpa*, belonging to the late Mr. Theodore Lyman, senior, preparing for a voyage to China. When nearly ready, Mr. Lyman decided to add another hundred thousand dollars to the large funds already provided, which sum might be left at Canton for investment out of the regular business season, in the expectation that it could be then done on the most favorable terms. This arrangement made it necessary that some one should be associated with me, who could remain a year at Canton; and Mr. Bromfield, who had previously been in the service of Mr. Lyman, was selected. We met for the first time only the day before sailing, and were wholly ignorant of each other's views, habits, and tastes.

“The relation in which we were placed, does not always tend to harmony and mutual good feelings. On shore we were upon a footing of equality; but at sea I was vested with exclusive and almost despotic power, to which he, in common with all on board, was bound to submit. In two voyages previously made to Europe, he had unfortunately been associated with ship-masters, whose narrow prejudices made them foolishly jealous of their authority, and disposed to regard as interference with it any inquiries or comments (however natural and unobjectionable they might be) made by the supercargo, relative to occurrences and passing events on ship-board. This induced Mr. Bromfield to practise extreme caution at the outset of our voyage; and he afterwards declared, that for the first week he scarcely knew whether the fore-topsail was set or furled, for, when walking the deck, he avoided raising his eyes above the direct line of vision lest he should be suspected of prying into matters that did not concern him, as had happened to him on previous occasions. We soon, however, came to a full

understanding; and I doubt if two individuals ever did, or could, make a four months' passage together more harmoniously and pleasantly. He was full of information on a great variety of subjects, and there was a dry humor and a piquancy in his unreserved colloquial intercourse that were perfectly fascinating; and I have never known a man whom I should prefer as a companion through the usual tediousness of a long passage at sea. There was even then, at times, a slight reserve and peculiarity in his manner, which became somewhat more apparent in after life; but these I was careful never to notice, and left him altogether free to act himself in every respect, so that our pleasant intercourse was never for a moment interrupted.

“His habits on ship-board were very regular. He usually appeared on deck an hour before breakfast time, and, after a formal exchange of morning salutations, would walk rapidly fore and aft the weather side of the main deck for some ten minutes, then join me on the quarter deck and break forth in his usual style, with remarks that never failed to interest and delight me. After breakfast he would occupy himself with his books while I was engaged in the usual avocations of a ship-master, which in my case were not very onerous; for, soon after getting to sea, I became satisfied that I was particularly fortunate in having selected a first officer (Mr. Daniel C. Bacon, then a very young man, scarcely more than twenty years of age, now one of our most estimable and successful merchants), so devoted to his duties and competent to perform them, that I might safely intrust all details to his care and management. This left me at leisure to pass much time in social intercourse with Mr. Bromfield; and having the mild climate and fine weather which the voyager usually finds on a passage to China in the regular season, every thing went on so smoothly and pleasantly, that when we anchored in Macao roads, on the evening of the 21st of

August, we could scarcely forbear regretting that our passage was so nearly finished.

“The next morning a very unlooked-for change came over us. At an early hour I despatched my first officer, Mr. Bacon, with a boat’s crew for Macao, about seven miles distant, to procure a pilot for Canton river. Soon after, a fleet of armed vessels, apparently Chinese men-of-war, were discovered a few miles distant, standing directly for us. On the outward passage we had passed through the Straits of Banca, and near the spot where a brother of Mr. Bromfield had been attacked and cut off by Malays some years before. The fate of his brother very naturally led him to regard with more than usual suspicion and apprehension every native armed vessel; but I thought that he sometimes manifested these feelings in a greater degree than the occasion seemed to warrant, and did not always regard them so much, perhaps, as I ought to have done.

“When the Chinese vessels were within a mile or two of us, Mr. Bromfield came on deck, and I pointed them out to him, remarking, inconsiderately, “If those fellows should chance to be *Ladrones* (pirates), and knew that we have three hundred thousand Spanish dollars on board, they would be tempted to pay us attention in a way that might not be agreeable this warm morning.” I instantly perceived that the suggestion alarmed him; and though I did not at the moment participate in the alarm, yet, regardless of his feelings, I promptly took measures for defence and escape, that ultimately saved us; but, had they been delayed till my own apprehensions were awakened, it might very likely have been too late, and our destruction inevitable. Had those who witnessed the whole transaction been disposed at first to ascribe Mr. Bromfield’s alarm to timidity, the cool self-possession and firm intrepidity, with which he aided in defence of the ship when the danger became immi-

nent and an attack was actually made, would have fully satisfied them, that he was by no means deficient in personal courage, but was actuated solely by a prudent desire to avoid danger when nothing but disaster could result from useless exposure.

“Associated as we were in transactions at Canton, I could judge from personal observation of his capacity as a practical ‘business man’; and such was the opinion I then formed, confirmed by the experience of after years, of his talents, qualifications, and sound judgment, that I could not select a man whom I should have preferred as an agent for the management of commercial business in any quarter of the globe. I left him at Canton, where he remained a year; and this voyage laid the foundation of the fortune he subsequently acquired, which was slowly but surely accumulated by persevering industry in the safest manner; for I doubt if he ever engaged in a transaction that the most fastidious prudence would have pronounced hazardous. He never commenced an adventure without a careful estimate of probabilities, or closed one without looking thoroughly into details and results. He often remarked, that ‘many men are ruined by omitting to make figures.’

“His knowledge of commerce was extensive and accurate, and whatever he undertook to do was sure to be done in the very best manner. He frequently commented upon the loose and careless manner in which business is done in this country, and contrasted it with the European practice. ‘Here,’ said he, in his familiar way, ‘if a purchaser is about to buy a cargo of box sugars, he will bore into one box, look at a second, kick a third, and take the lot; but in Europe they thrust an iron searcher through and through every box, and carefully examine every layer.’ He admitted that a system of credit is indispensable in this country, but denounced in no measured terms the extent to which

we have carried it, as a fruitful source of commercial embarrassments and financial convulsions. To this dangerous extension and indiscriminate granting of credit he mainly ascribed the failure of three fourths of those who engage in trade and commerce.

“As his property increased, a portion of it was invested in various manufacturing companies; and, had some of his views in relation to this great branch of industry been adopted and carried out, the interest of those engaged in it would have been greatly promoted. He asserted that the manufacturers themselves were their own worst enemies, and maintained that all the injury they sustained from the unwise and vacillating policy of government, and the hostility of ‘free trade’ advocates, was trifling compared with the injury they inflicted upon themselves by premature and almost reckless increase of producing power. ‘Why, my friend,’ he would say to me, ‘we manufacturers may clamor for protection, and rail at the government for its hostility to the manufacturing interest till we make ourselves hoarse, and it will do no good. The truth is, government has little power in this matter for weal or woe, and can only aggravate or mitigate, in a degree, the evils we bring upon ourselves *by competing with ourselves*. It is not the government, it is Messieurs A, and B, and C, and D,’ (enumerating those who usually take the lead in getting up new manufacturing establishments), ‘with their associates, who do the mischief by keeping production too far ahead of consumption; and, if the rapid growth of this country chance to bring demand up with supply, these gentlemen seem to strain every nerve to give supply the lead again, as if they dreaded that our occasional periods of prosperity would last too long. It is the eagerness to sell water-power, and find employment for their machine-shops, that prostrates the manufacturing business;

and we can only hope, that, as all these concerns are principally owned by the same individuals, they will by and by discover, that, where one dollar is gained by getting up new establishments, five are often lost by the consequent depression in price of the productions of those already in operation.' He was not alone in these views.

"Mr. Bromfield was familiar with matters of finance and currency. He perceived the adaptation of a mixed currency to the business and wants of this country, but was never free from apprehension that the paper element would predominate, and the country be flooded with irredeemable paper. He was proud of the financial position maintained by New England during the war with Great Britain from 1812 to 1815, at a time when all south and west of her borders failed to fulfil their engagements and suffered dishonor; but he was sadly troubled and deeply mortified at the course taken in 1837, when, in a time of profound peace and apparent prosperity, all the moneyed institutions in the country suspended payment, not (as they alleged) for want of means, but because they chose to consider it for *the public good* that they should violate their engagements and refuse to pay their debts. He deplored the circumstance as a national calamity, and seemed to feel it little less than a stain upon every solvent man's personal honor. 'It is not,' said he, 'so much the immediate effect that I deprecate, but I dread the consequences hereafter. If individuals who have once violated faith can never be relied upon afterwards, how can you expect that soulless corporations, if once permitted to disregard all laws with impunity, will refrain from doing so again whenever their interest can be thereby promoted. Corporations,' he added, 'are convenient and useful, but there is no safety in them unless regulated by stringent laws, and these laws strictly enforced.'

"When discussing 'usury laws,' Mr. Bromfield admit-

ted the necessity of establishing by law a uniform rate of interest to govern all cases in which no rate was stipulated ; but he scouted the idea, that legislation could practically restrict the price to be paid for the use of money to a uniform rate at all times and under all circumstances. ‘The value of the use of money,’ he said, ‘like the price of commodities, is governed by the great law of supply and demand ; and this cannot be controlled by legislation. Usury laws, as they are called, are doubtless designed to protect borrowers and debtors. Do they effect this ? Let us look at the practical working of them. We must assume that the borrower will always be disposed to obtain money at the lowest rate of interest. If he cannot obtain it at six per cent., it must be because it will command more. Then, if his prospects or necessities induce a willingness, or compel him, to pay more, the law steps in and forbids its being lent to him, directly, at a higher rate. How then is the borrower or debtor situated ? He *must* have money ; — he cannot borrow it at six per cent. ; — the law forbids a *direct* loan to him at a higher rate, and he is compelled either to raise it by a sacrifice of property, or obtain it on loan in an *indirect* way, which every one knows is invariably attended with additional expense, that must be borne by the unfortunate borrower. If no other use could be made of money in times of scarcity but to lend it, the owner might be driven to let it go at six per cent. by the prohibition to take more ; but at such times the current value of the use of money may be realized in many other ways than by lending it. In fact, it may be *legally* lent at any rate of interest agreed upon, provided it be *indirectly* done. If these views are correct,’ he added, ‘it is evident that usury laws put no effectual restriction upon lenders, but are onerous and injurious to borrowers ; and this is confirmed by the fact that applications to the legislature for the repeal or modification of such laws come usually from borrowers, for

lenders are little incommoded by them.' As a question of morals, Mr. Bromfield did not recognize a difference between getting the current rate for the use of money and getting the market price for a bushel of potatoes or a barrel of flour; and, though habitual respect for the laws deterred him from violating them, yet he did not scruple to take the current rate for the use of money in a legal manner.

"Mr. Bromfield read much and thought more. The tendency of his mind was to investigation, but not speculation. He deemed it a waste of time, however, to investigate subjects upon which even an approximation to certainty could not be reached, and which promised no compensating results for labor thus bestowed. 'There are,' said he, 'enough practical and useful matters to be looked into to occupy the longest life.' He bowed to no authority in matters that admitted of difference of opinion, but chose to examine and collate the views of others, and then to form his own. I have never known one less disposed to adopt opinions, however high the source whence they emanated, without passing them through the alembic of his own mind. He often, therefore, rejected those prevalent at the moment, and was seldom carried away by the current of popular feeling. He was, if I may be allowed the expression, thoroughly *anti-humbug*, and regarded most of the exciting topics of the day with philosophic calmness, or with a feeling bordering upon disgust. You, Sir, can readily call to mind the excited state of political feeling in 1808 and 1809, upon questions of embargo, non-intercourse, &c., and will, I think, agree with me, that though too much bitterness is mingled with politics at the present time, yet this bitterness is mild compared with the rancor and hatred of political partisans in former days. Now ultra Whigs and violent Locofocos occasionally meet, in sweet communion, on 'free soil'; — then Federalists and Democrats only

came together quietly in the burying-ground, and even there with reluctance. It was scarcely to be expected, that Mr. Bromfield and myself should escape participation in feelings that pervaded the community at the time we left the United States ; but, once beyond the reach of the exciting influences that surrounded us at home, things soon began to assume a different aspect ; and, ere the passage was half over, we could discuss matters more impartially, and smile at the delusion that led to an undue appreciation of events ephemeral in their character, and temporary in their consequences. ‘ Ah ! ’ Mr. Bromfield would exclaim, ‘ if those who take but a one-sided view of affairs at home could only look at them as we do, from the latitude of forty, South, how differently they would appear ! ’

“ And in after years, when at any time undue excitement was got up upon any subject, — when politicians (self-styled patriots) were clamoring for the election of some favorite individual, or the adoption of some particular measure, as indispensable to the salvation of the country, he would touch me upon the arm with ‘ Ah, my friend, if people could only view these matters from forty, South, would n’t they wonder at their own delusion and folly ? ’ His opinions, being deliberately and carefully formed, were adhered to somewhat tenaciously ; but, though well prepared to defend them, he generally shunned controversy, and it was only with intimate friends that he would willingly engage in dispute. Whenever he did so, his manner was invariably courteous and considerate. He was a firm believer in the great truths of Christianity, and in its adaptation to the condition and wants of humanity, but had no sectarian prejudices, and scarcely a preference. He attached little importance to forms, and was willing that every man should worship after his own fashion. He held that man was accountable to God alone for his belief, and to society only

for his actions. I have more than once heard him quote approvingly the sentiment of the poet:—

‘For modes of faith let zealous bigots fight;
His can’t be wrong, whose life is in the right.’

With these liberal views he could, of course, tolerate the great diversity of opinion on such subjects; and he extended this spirit even to what he deemed ill-judged or useless efforts to proselytize. He was willing that Jews should cling to the faith of their fathers and remain Jews, and equally willing that visionary enthusiasts should associate for their conversion. He concurred heartily in the sentiment of Lord Bacon, that the great object of life, and the highest duty of man, are the ‘multiplication of human enjoyments and the mitigation of human sufferings.’

“Mr. Bromfield never married. It was a subject seldom touched upon by his friends, as they knew it rather annoyed him. Occasionally, however, it would be brought up; and, when questioned as to his motive for remaining in a state of ‘single blessedness,’ he would treat it pleasantly, and reply, in substance, that he regarded the other sex too highly to inflict upon any one of them such a husband as he should make. ‘No woman,’ he would say, ‘who has a grain of discretion would consent to bind herself to such a nervous old bachelor as I am, and a woman without discretion would be — not to my taste.’ The truth, doubtless, is, that Mr. Bromfield’s characteristic prudence deterred him from changing his condition until he had acquired a competency; and this he did not accomplish till he was so far advanced in life, that the same prudence prevented his venturing upon the change at all. He was temperate even to abstemiousness; and solicitude to preserve health led him to try experiments in diet, exercise, and exposure, that I fear impaired his constitution and shortened

his life. The manner of his death was just what he often expressed a wish that it might be,—sudden and without suffering. ‘I doubt,’ said he, ‘if I shall be better prepared at one time than another; and therefore, when the “grim tyrant” comes, I hope he will make short work of it.’ Were I to sum up his most prominent traits, I should say they were unwavering devotion to whatever he deemed duty; unwearied industry and unfaltering perseverance in whatever he undertook; but, above all, unswerving integrity and uncompromising self-respect. Pope took a contracted view of the glorious works of the Creator, when he wrote the oft-quoted line, —

‘An honest man’s the noblest work of God.’

But honesty, in the broadest sense of the term, though not of itself sufficient to constitute the *noblest* work of creation, is an indispensable element in every character worthy of respect; and Mr. Bromfield had this element in perfection. Wiser and more talented men have lived, but an honest man never died.

“I am, dear Sir, respectfully and faithfully,

“Your friend and servant,

“WM. STURGIS.”

During his residence in Canton, Mr. Bromfield received repeated and valuable consignments of property from Henry Lee, Esq., either on his own account, or from persons for whose confidence he was indebted to Mr. Lee’s recommendation. His grateful feelings on these occasions were repeatedly shown in his letters to his mother and sisters. Thus, in March, 1810, he wrote: — “I am much obliged to Mr. Henry Lee for his attentions. Without the smallest claim on my part to the smallest portion of his time and pains, he has not failed to use both to my advantage.” And again, in the following November, “I am deeply indebted

to Henry Lee for unremitting marks of friendship, and for seconding my interest on every occasion."

Mr. Lee having been applied to for his reminiscences of Mr. Bromfield, and his views concerning his character, the following graphic delineation of them was received, of which he has kindly authorized the publication.

" Boston, April 4, 1850.

"HON. JOSIAH QUINCY, — Sir: I am gratified that a memoir of the late John Bromfield is about to be prepared. He was a man worthy to be held up^a to praise and imitation for his private virtues, not less than for his public benefactions.

"I can give but little aid in writing the history of his life. Our acquaintance commenced in 1806, and our friendly intercourse has been often interrupted by long intervals, during the residence of both of us in Europe and Asia.

"Nature had bestowed on Mr. Bromfield an extreme sensibility. His temperament was ardent, and his family affections intense. His mother, who was one of the most admirable women of her time, was beloved and venerated by all, and by her son with an attachment bordering on devotion. From her precepts and example Mr. Bromfield derived many of the most valued traits of his character; and the desire to secure an independent provision for her and for his brothers and sisters, whom he also ardently loved, gave probably the first bias of his mind to that determined spirit of independence which formed the groundwork of his efforts. In his early life, and during many years of his manhood, he was tried by adversity; and from this discipline he derived many of his peculiar habits, and also many of those admirable traits of character for which he was distinguished. His life was not eventful. It had

no striking incident to make it particularly interesting. In this respect it was not, perhaps, much distinguished from that of the most of our merchants and seamen, who seek in distant seas the profits of a commerce peculiarly exposed to danger from the lawless character of the nations with whom, or, in the vicinity of whom, it is carried on. There is, however, one incident of Mr. Bromfield's life, in which he had an opportunity to display his personal courage, presence of mind, and force of character, which was highly applauded at the time, and which ought not to be omitted in any memoir of him. It occurred in the year 1809, on board the ship *Atahualpa*, of which William Sturgis, Esq., was commander, and on board of which Mr. Bromfield was passenger, and was exhibited in defence of that ship when attacked by pirates in the China seas. You will probably receive from Mr. Sturgis a fuller account of this affair, than any I can give. But, as the successful defence and escape of the ship from imminent peril were chiefly attributable to the prowess and skill of Mr. Sturgis, he may possibly feel a delicacy in dwelling on the facts with so much particularity as they deserve, highly creditable as they were to all concerned.

“ Mr. Bromfield was joint supercargo with Mr. Sturgis, the commander of the ship; they having intrusted to their management a large amount of specie, then on board. While at anchor in Macao roads, and beyond the protection of its fort, a large fleet was, early one morning, perceived, bearing down towards the *Atahualpa*. The ships, full of people, were some of them of great size, and were disguised as Chinamen; but in fact they belonged to Ladrões, residents of the neighbouring coasts and islands, who make robbery and murder their means of subsistence. They are bold, reckless, and efficient. The Chinese authorities acknowledge their inability to restrain their depre-

dations. Many foreigners, as well as natives, have fallen victims to that treachery and cruelty, for which the Malay race are proverbial. It is, perhaps, impossible to be attacked by a more fierce or savage class of men, or one more qualified to fill the stoutest heart with dread. A brother of Mr. Bromfield had been a few years before assassinated by them, in the same seas, under very tragical circumstances; and the sight of the coming enemy naturally excited in his mind sad reminiscences of his brother's fate. Other circumstances, probably, tended to fill his mind with apprehension. The chief officer (Daniel C. Bacon) of the *Atahualpa*, with a great part of the ship's crew, was absent, having been sent away that morning, on duty, to Macao; and what remained of the ship's company were scarcely sufficient at once to manage the ship and defend her. Captain Sturgis was, however, equal to the exigency. Cutting his cables, he at the same time hoisted his sails, in order, if possible, to get within the protection of the fort, and gave battle to the enemy; and, after a serious engagement, in which some of their balls penetrated to the cabin, and the combustible materials they discharged had wellnigh set the ship on fire, he succeeded in placing her under the protection of the fort at Macao.

“ In this defence, Mr. Bromfield was second only to the commander in courage and activity. He took command of a gun, and responded to the orders of the captain with a self-possession and heroism, which, with the other qualities of his head and heart, endeared him to Mr. Sturgis for ever afterwards.

“ In the early periods of Mr. Bromfield's career, he was chiefly employed as a supercargo in foreign voyages, having very valuable interests intrusted to his management. The times, however, were those of embargo, non-intercourse, and war; and the circumstances by which his agency was

surrounded were unpropitious. But, although much of the property which was committed to him was lost, no shadow of reproach was ever cast either upon his judgment, conduct, or fidelity; and he enjoyed to the last the entire confidence of all those who had constituted him their agent.

“After the restoration of peace, in 1815, Mr. Bromfield employed the small property he had then accumulated in adventures abroad, particularly in Eastern commerce, from whence he drew large profits, in consequence of his thorough acquaintance with Oriental customs and trade. When, however, through the increase of competition, this employment of his capital became less profitable, he withdrew it, and subsequently devoted himself to its increase by investments, which the course of the exchange offered, and which he made with great prudence, avoiding all risks, and seeking safe rather than extravagant gains.

“His rules of action were fixed, such as he deemed it the imperious duty of a merchant habitually to observe; and these he applied to the management as well of his own property as of that intrusted to him. To put any thing important in jeopardy for the sake of great profits, — to engage in hazardous enterprises on borrowed capital, and, for the sake of gain to ourselves, to risk the property of others, — were frequent topics of his reproof and reprobation; the delicacy and firmness of his principle in this respect are, in this ‘*go-ahead* community,’ so uncommon, that they may well be enumerated as among his ‘*peculiarities*.’ His tastes and habits in the latter periods of his life had indeed the aspect of singularity. Though he shunned society, he did not seek solitude. He lived in the retirement of his own lodgings, yet at proper seasons was on the exchange, where he attended to his own business, — but troubled himself not at all with that of others. He had

a morbid dislike of notoriety, so that, beyond a very circumscribed circle of old friends and acquaintance, his worth was unknown and unappreciated. This aversion to notoriety led him always to avoid all conversation relative to himself or his own purposes. Being once questioned concerning the engagement with the Ladrões in the China seas, with a design to draw him into an account of it, he kindly and characteristically replied, — ‘That affair has been a little exaggerated, and too much praised. I will only say, I am incapable of wishing that even an enemy of mine should be ever placed in so *disagreeable a predicament*.’

“Although Mr. Bromfield avoided frequent intercourse even with those towards whom he stood in intimate and friendly relations, yet this did not arise from any disrespect or want of affection for his fellow-men; still less could it be referred to any mental or moral inaptitude to appreciate the pleasures and advantages of social intercourse, and its elevating and civilizing tendencies. For no one, who enjoyed the pleasure and advantage of his society, could fail to perceive the cordial and respectful spirit in which he sustained his part. His conversation was replete with information, entertaining, and instructive. His mind, naturally strong, had been improved by careful cultivation, and his observations indicated great meditation and research. His opinions were characterized by originality and independence; frequently differing from those generally entertained, and often from those of the persons with whom he conversed; yet he listened with attention and respect to the arguments of those who differed from him, and yielded the same right of independence to the judgment of others, which he claimed for his own.

“Mr. Bromfield’s manners, on the first approach, were somewhat formal, even to his friends and acquaintance, but

in nothing were they austere or repulsive. There was in his demeanour so much of dignity, refinement, and gentleness, that even a transient acquaintance could not fail to perceive that he possessed all the qualities which characterize a gentleman.

“His systematic avoidance of general society, and of all the amusements which occupy the time and thoughts of most men, and his love of seclusion, were indeed striking peculiarities in his character, and were the result, unquestionably, of habits which, acquired first from a sense of duty, and being continued for many years by the events of his early life, became at last fixed and inveterate. He was also constitutionally liable to physical infirmities, which subjected him to great self-denial. He was, therefore, temperate from principle, and often abstemious from necessity. The exact fulfilment of his moral and social obligations became, in time, the absorbing principle of his conduct, and guided every action of his life. Economy in expenditure, also, which was commenced at first from necessity and duty, resulted ultimately in an unremitting habit. It was the effect neither of selfishness nor of avarice. For, although he scrupulously avoided all ostentatious charities, he was habitually in the custom of contributing to the wants and the comforts of those, whose necessities came within his knowledge. As his wealth increased, his desire to be extensively useful increased with it. Having effected his own independence, and also acquired what he deemed sufficient for that of the relatives he loved, he extended his views, and embraced within their sphere more general charities, to which he determined, that, either during his life or at his death, they should be appropriated; his design to accumulate being ever associated with the intention to accomplish some wise and benevolent object. To this end he repressed every temptation to self-indulgence, and sought

every occasion of self-sacrifice. The spirit which actuated him is not only strikingly manifested in his munificent bequests to the public, but still more by his private legacies.

“In conclusion, I cordially respond to the tribute paid to his memory by the Trustees of the Massachusetts General Hospital, in their recent Report. ‘Notwithstanding the many acts of liberality of Mr. Bromfield, he was not a seeker of notoriety or praise. He was remarkable for integrity, sound judgment, quiet resolution, and public benefactions. What he believed to be his duty, he did. He is remembered for his public bounty. But he deserves as much respect for his private virtues. Those who knew him best, esteemed him the most.’

“I am yours with great respect,

“HENRY LEE.”

To these letters of Mr. Sturgis and Mr. Lee, are here subjoined two others, from Messrs. Augustine Heard and Daniel C. Bacon, gentlemen, like the former, of high mercantile standing, and also, like them, universally appreciated in this community for the soundness of their judgment, and for their capacity to estimate justly the qualities of mind and heart which constitute character. The concurrent opinions of such men, the uniformity of their affection for Mr. Bromfield, and their similar testimony to the elevated principles and motives by which he guided his life, form a tribute to his memory, beyond which nothing can be hoped for or desired.

“Boston, April 18, 1850.

“HON. JOSIAH QUINCY,—Dear Sir: You have expressed a wish that I should communicate to you any thing that may occur to me, that would be useful to you in writing

a memoir of our late friend, Mr. Bromfield; and I have a sincere wish to do so, but am doubtful if any thing, that I can say, will aid you.

“My first acquaintance with Mr. Bromfield was in China, in, I think, 1809, where he was joint supercargo of the *Atahualpa* with Mr. William Sturgis. He remained after the departure of the ship, as Mr. Lyman’s agent in China, where he was considered a model man, not only by his countrymen, but by the Chinese with whom he had dealings. In all his transactions he was scrupulously just and accurate, which gave him the entire confidence of all who knew him; and through life he always sustained the character of a man of sterling principles, pure mind, and kind dispositions, never for a moment forgetting the claims of those around him. He was constitutionally a gentleman, and could not, if he would, have been otherwise, — possessing an unusual degree of refinement, combined with great intelligence and sound judgment. His knowledge was always at command, and always at the service of his friends. In speaking upon any subject in which he felt an interest, the ease and flow of his language kept pace with the vigor and rapidity of his thoughts, and his conversation at such times was most interesting. In his habits he was exact and uniform, and to his industry and punctuality may be attributed his remarkable acquisition of information on so many topics. He was always careful of his personal expenditures, from a sense that extravagance would not conduce to his happiness; this, combined with his business talent, enabled him to exhibit during his lifetime a degree of liberality that few men can bring themselves to do.”

“In a conversation that I had with him the day before the attack that carried him from among us, when he was unusually cheerful, he spoke very freely of leaving the world, and of the desirableness of being taken away upon

a short summons, and named a number of instances of those whom he had known, who had departed without suffering, or giving trouble to their friends (which was always a consideration with him), and without the painful sense of a gradual wasting of the powers and strength of manhood, which is usually attendant upon protracted illness. This comparatively happy exit, however desirable, he observed, could not be secured; we must submit to our destiny. Upon this occasion he remarked, quoting some ancient authority, that death, as it was the fate of all the living, should not be considered an evil; that leaving this world was part of a great plan unnecessary for us to understand.

“Mr. Bromfield’s character was not marked by points which served to make him popular with the world; yet, if it can be said of any one, it may of him, that ‘he was a man without guile,’ and full of excellent qualities.

“I can hardly suppose that the foregoing will be of any service to you; yet I shall be glad if it should be so. All Mr. Bromfield’s friends must rejoice that a remembrance of him is to come from *your* hands.

“I am, dear Sir, very respectfully,

“Your obedient servant,

“AUGUSTINE HEARD.”

“Boston, March 28, 1850.

“HON. JOSIAH QUINCY, — My dear Sir: Your favor under date of the 27th instant, requesting me to give you any reminiscences I may have concerning the late Mr. John Bromfield, or any opinion or facts I possess illustrative of his character, is before me. I am aware that I am totally incompetent to do justice to the character of such a man as Mr. Bromfield. I was acquainted with him from 1808 to the time of his death, and can truly say I have

always had and still retain the greatest respect for him as a high-minded moral man, of the strictest integrity, and one of the most agreeable and pleasant companions, both on board ship and on shore, that it was ever my good fortune to be acquainted with. I made a passage with him in the ship *Atahualpa*, in 1809, to China. During that voyage the ship was attacked off Macao, by twenty-two large Ladrone junks, some of them twice the tonnage of the ship; and it was entirely owing to the courage and good judgment of Capt. William Sturgis, and the great exertions of the others on board at the time, only two thirds of a crew (myself and four men being absent at the time), that saved the ship from capture, and the lives of all on board; Mr. Bromfield having performed all that lay in his power during the engagement, with the same unflinching discharge of duty, however arduous, which marked his whole life. Mr. Sturgis's conduct for courage and good judgment in that engagement received the highest praise from all those who saw and were capable of judging of the manner in which the ship was worked, and his great exertions to save the ship and crew from the pirates.

“I am, Sir, very respectfully,

“Your obedient servant,

“DANIEL C. BACON.”

These testimonies from men of highly intelligent and independent minds, to whom different opportunities for observation gave an intimate knowledge of Mr. Bromfield's principles and motives, and the causes of his peculiarities, present a striking delineation of his character.

The high reputation for ability and integrity he thus attained among his immediate associates, and the small capital he acquired during his agency in Canton, laid the foundation of his fortune. After his return to the United States

he employed himself in the management of his own funds, and in again superintending agencies in foreign countries, intrusted to him by his friends, in which his knowledge of commerce and his known judgment gave great promise of success. Fortune, however, resumed her former unpropitious aspect. "I have been captured," he writes to his sister from Cadiz, in January, 1813, "and detained ten weeks in Gibraltar. The consequence is ruin to the business I had undertaken. I regret that I have never been able to impart to you a single instance of my success. But it is a melancholy truth, that in the whole course of my life I have never arrived at a good market."

Mr. Bromfield was now about thirty-four years of age, and the want of success attendant on his foreign voyages induced him to place beyond the reach of such vicissitudes that attainment of independence which was the object of his efforts.

Fixing his residence in Boston, or its vicinity, he watched, with a practised eye and a skilful foresight, the ebb and flow of the exchange. Sometimes in connection with the house of Bryant & Sturgis, or of Henry Lee, he engaged in adventures abroad, well conceived and carefully insured; at others, he availed himself of the phases of the money market, which he diligently observed and well understood.

Thus, by the vigilant and careful investment of his small capital, by the rigid practice of economy, in seclusion from general society and from the temptations of vanity and amusement, by deducting scarcely any thing from his acquisitions beyond what was necessary to his own subsistence, and to that charity to others which he habitually practised, he gradually executed his plan of life, attained independence for himself, and the power of conferring important benefits on others and on the public. His books show that

his kind acts and charitable contributions, though secret, were constant. The bounty of his spirit to his friends and relatives was uninterrupted, discriminating, and most liberal. To the general claims of pauperism he listened dubiously, and often with disregard, being of opinion, that indiscriminate charity was one of the fruitful causes of the state it pretends to relieve. To public solicitations he seldom yielded. Although the care of his property and its gradual accumulation made the chief employment of Mr. Bromfield, his time was not exclusively devoted to affairs of business. His knowledge of life and acquaintance with the world opened to him never-failing sources of thought and reflection, which were readily placed at the service of all who had recourse to him. In contributing to the instruction of others, his language was easy and eloquent ; and in what he uttered there were ever displayed research, meditation, various information, and deep wisdom. Books were to him a constant source of occupation and amusement. In their company, he felt not the want of general society. Self-sustained, and with an ever-pervading sense of his responsibility to Heaven, he valued but little, and courted not at all, the common opinion of mankind.

As his property increased, his desire of usefulness increased with it. The objects to which his acquisitions should ultimately be applied were, probably, never out of his mind. The right of selecting them was maintained and vindicated with a pertinaciousness belonging to that spirit of independence, for which he was distinguished.

In December, 1845, Mr. Bromfield communicated to the writer of this Memoir the liberal design which occupied his thoughts, in language at once characteristic, and indicative of a fixed purpose. "My property," said he, "has increased beyond my hopes and even my desires. I now feel myself at liberty to gratify a prevailing wish of my

heart, and to do something permanent and useful for a city, in which a great part of my life has been passed. Circumstances have made it my duty to accumulate. But I see no value in wealth, and have little regard for it, except for its ultimate use; but in respect to this I feel a sense of great responsibility. Hitherto my view, as to that ultimate use, has been limited to the provisions of my last will. But, as my property has increased, I begin to doubt whether an application of a part of it to an earlier object of usefulness be not most wise. By will, a man bestows only what he can no longer keep. It is a fund of generosity, formed out of the expectations and rights of relatives and heirs. Nothing can be strictly called a gift, except that which a man executes in his lifetime. For this I am prepared and desirous. But I must be unknown. I have extreme repugnance to notoriety." The conversation then turned upon the amount he proposed to give, and to the objects to which it should be applied. He observed, that he felt justified in giving away *fifty thousand dollars*, but after great deliberation he had resolved to restrict his gift at present to *twenty-five thousand*. As to the object of his bounty, the wants of the Boston Athenæum were known to him, and he had concluded to come to its aid. His pleasure in literary pursuits made a chief part of his enjoyment, and probably decided the direction of his liberality. Mr. Bromfield's repugnance to be known as the author of this gift to the Athenæum was with great difficulty surmounted. But, when it was urged that its origin could not long be concealed in an inquisitive community, — that he might be subjected to inquiries, which his strict regard to veracity would render it impossible to evade, — and also that it was as much a man's duty to be true to himself, as to be just to others, he finally acceded; and reluctantly consented, that if the proposal of

his gift and its terms were accepted by the Proprietors of the Athenæum, his name should not be withheld.

The friends of Mr. Bromfield were aware, that the peculiarities of his life and the delicacy of his sensibility had prevented many of his contemporaries from forming a just estimate of his worth and his generosity; the publicity thus given to his bounty was, therefore, to them, highly gratifying; and it was apparent that the satisfaction, derived from perceiving that his character and liberal views were appreciated and understood, added much to the happiness of the few remaining years of his life, and more than compensated for the annoyances, arising from the constant application for charity and patronage, which this public donation immediately occasioned.

His death, an event which he had accustomed himself to contemplate and be prepared for, was granted him in a manner, for which he had often expressed a hope. On the morning of the 8th day of December, 1849, after an early walk, he returned to his apartment; and, when called to breakfast, he was found insensible from a stroke of apoplexy. Although he was apparently aware of the presence of his sister and her husband, and of other friends, who were immediately summoned to his residence, and who watched over his last hours, distinct consciousness never returned; and on the following day his life, which he had endeavoured to lead under a sense of being "ever in his great Task-master's eye," was terminated, without gradual decay or protracted suffering.

His property was found after his death considerably to exceed two hundred thousand dollars, invested with great judgment and care, and was distributed by his last will with a wisdom and precision altogether in unison with the principles and habits of his life. Having fulfilled to the utmost the duties of affinity, affection, and friendship, he de-

voted his remaining ample resources to the service of the public, giving

To the Massachusetts General Hospital, and to the

McLean Asylum, in equal shares,	. \$ 40,000
“ “ Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary,	. 10,000
“ “ Boston Female Asylum,	. . . 10,000
“ “ Asylum for Indigent Boys,	. . . 10,000
“ “ Farm School at Thompson's Island,	. 10,000
“ “ Asylum for the Blind,	. . . 10,000
“ “ Seamen's Aid Society,	. . . 10,000
“ “ Town of Newburyport, for its improvement and ornament,*	. . . 10,000
	<hr/> \$ 110,000

By these noble and generous benefactions to the public, Mr. Bromfield erected an enduring memorial to his own virtues, and to a name of which he was the last representative. And this sketch of his life may be appropriately closed in the words of his nearest surviving relative : —

“The distinguishing trait of my brother's character was his quick discernment of the true and the real, appertaining to our human existence, and his power of separating them with almost equal sagacity from their apparent and nominal value. At no period of his life did he look

* The following are the provisions of Mr. Bromfield's will in relation to this subject : —

“ I order the sum of ten thousand dollars to be invested, at interest, in the Hospital Life Insurance Company, in the city of Boston, so and in such manner as that the selectmen or other duly authorized agents of the town of Newburyport, for the time being, may annually receive the interest which shall accrue or become payable for or in respect of said deposit ; and I direct, that, by or in behalf of said town, the interest so received shall be annually expended, — one half in keeping the sidewalks in the public streets of said town in good order, and the other half in the planting and preserving trees in said streets, for the embellishing and ornamenting of said streets for the pleasure and comfort of the inhabitants.”

forward to being made happy, — hardly to being made happier, — by the attainment of that honorable competency for which he struggled nobly and labored unremittingly. Yet this insight, and superiority to the usual incitement to activity, united with a nervous temperament and a delicate constitution, never led him to seek refuge in repose. With systematic, unflinching, personal self-denial, he strained every nerve, and exerted every faculty, to procure for others, not merely the means of alleviating the ills of life, but of gratifying every rational indulgence and merited enjoyment. One portion especially of his mercantile experience strongly tested the self-reliance, decision, and indomitable courage of his character. The grand basis of religious principle laid by his mother, combined with intellectual strength, and power of will, and moral energy, enabled him to sustain himself through a long life, to the accomplishment of his plans of usefulness, and the fulfilment of his destiny.”

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